

The Conference in normal times meets at least once a year, and is composed of four delegates from each Member State, two representing the Government and two representing employers and workers, respectively. Decisions of the Conference are in the form of Conventions or Recommendations. The former, when given legislative effect and ratified by Member States, are legally binding on them and their enforcement within such countries is a matter for annual consideration by the Conference. The I.L.O. Constitution requires, however, that every Convention must be brought before the competent authority or authorities for legislative or other action. In Canada, the competent authorities in respect to the subject matter of most of the Conventions and Recommendations are the Provincial Legislatures. Amendments to the Constitution adopted by the Conference in 1946 included new provisions concerning the obligations imposed on federal countries with respect to the manner of dealing with Conventions and Recommendations when ratified by two-thirds of the Member States. These changes in procedure are expected to facilitate the adoption of Conventions and Recommendations by the constituent States or Provinces of federal countries.

The International Labour Office acts as the permanent secretariat of the Organization and as an information centre and publishing house.

The Governing Body consists of 32 persons, 16 Government representatives, eight employers' and eight workers' representatives, of whom all but the representatives of the eight States of chief industrial importance, which hold permanent seats, are elected triennially by the Conference. The Governing Body, which usually meets quarterly, has general supervision of the International Labour Office, frames its budget and fixes the agenda of the Conference when the Conference itself does not do so. Three sessions were held at Montreal during 1946—in May, September and October.

There have been 29 sessions of the Conference at which 80 draft Conventions and 80 Recommendations have been adopted covering a wide range of subjects: hours of work; weekly rest; holidays; minimum age for employment; night-work of women and young persons; minimum wages; health and safety; workmen's compensation; seamen's conditions; insurance against unemployment, sickness, old age and death; colonial labour problems; protection of migrant workers; and many other aspects of the protection of workers' rights and interests. There have been 921 ratifications of these Conventions from 51 countries.

Eight International Labour Conventions have been given legislative effect by Dominion Parliament and have been ratified by the Government, six relating to seamen, one to dockers and one to statisticians.

During 1946, the third regional Conference of the American members of the I.L.O. was held at Mexico city, Mexico. The 28th Session of the Conference was held at Seattle, U.S.A., and the 29th at Montreal, Canada. Canada was represented at Mexico (April) by a tri-partite delegation of workers, employers and Government members. Twenty-eight resolutions were adopted dealing chiefly with industrial relations, labour inspection and vocational training. The Maritime Conference at Seattle in June, at which Canada had 12 representatives, adopted nine Conventions concerning minimum wages and maximum hours of work, food on board ship, crew quarters, holidays with pay and social security.

In September-October at Montreal, 46 countries were represented by 429 delegates, advisers, official observers and others. The Minister of Labour of Canada was elected President. Three Conventions were adopted concerning medical