

of Conventions and Recommendations. A Convention, after adoption, must be considered by the competent authorities in each Member State with a view to possible ratification; however each Member State decides whether or not to ratify any Convention, and only by ratification does it assume the obligation to bring its legislation in that field up to the standard set by the Convention. A Recommendation is less formal: it contains general principles for the guidance of governments in drafting legislation or in issuing administrative orders and is not subject to ratification by the Member States.

The *International Labour Office* acts as the permanent secretariat of the ILO and as a world research and information centre and publishing house on all subjects concerned with industry and labour. In the operational field it assists Member States by furnishing experts on manpower training and technical assistance. The ILO maintains branch offices in all parts of the world, including the Canada Branch, 95 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

The *Governing Body* of the ILO, by a constitutional amendment adopted in June 1953, consists of 40 members: 20 government representatives, 10 employers' representatives and 10 workers' representatives. Of the government seats, each of the 10 Member States of chief industrial importance (of which Canada is one) holds a permanent place, and the other 10 government representatives are elected triennially by the Conference. The worker and employer members are elected by their groups every three years at the Conference. The Governing Body meets three times a year, and has general supervision over the work of the International Labour Office and the various Conferences and Committees, in addition to framing the budget and approving the agendas of the various Conferences. Canada's representative on the Governing Body is Mr. Arthur H. Brown, Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada, who is Chairman of the Governing Body for the period 1955-57.

There have been 38 Sessions of the International Labour Conference, at which 104 Conventions and 100 Recommendations have been adopted, covering a wide range of subjects such as industrial relations, freedom of association, hours of work, weekly rest, holidays with pay, minimum wages, night work of women and young persons, industrial health and safety, workmen's compensation, conditions of work for seamen and dockers, unemployment and health insurance, protection of migrant workers, equal remuneration, and many other aspects of industrial and social problems. By August 1955 the ratifications of Conventions by Member States totalled about 1,525.

Canada has ratified 18 ILO Conventions, of which 12 concern maritime and dock labour. In Canada the provincial legislatures are the competent legislative authorities with jurisdiction over the subject covered by most of the ILO Conventions and Recommendations. The Department of Labour, as the official liaison agency with the International Labour Organization, is responsible for forwarding to the ILO Office annual reports on ratified Conventions as well as periodical reports on many other industrial and social matters. Canada is represented at most of the ILO annual and special meetings and accounts of the discussions and the decisions are regularly published in the *Labour Gazette*. The Department also keeps the provincial governments and the major employer and worker organizations informed of ILO activities.