

The International Labour Office is required to collect all available information in regard to the problems to be dealt with and to prepare draft conventions or recommendations for submission to the Conference. The work of the Office has been divided for the proper performance of its duties into two divisions, namely: the Diplomatic Division, which conducts the correspondence with Governments and is called upon to deal "with the questions connected with the obligations entailed by the labour provisions of the Treaty and in particular with those relating to the work of the International Labour Conference," and the Scientific Division, which is "responsible for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information of international interest and importance about industry and labour conditions in all countries." Technical services have been created to supply the necessary information on technical questions such as maritime problems, industrial hygiene, employment and unemployment, hours of labour, agriculture, alien labour, employment of women, home work, wages, social insurance, education and co-operation.

The first session of the International Labour Conference was held at Washington in October and November, 1919, in accordance with Article 424 of the Treaty of Peace. The subjects to be considered at this first Conference were stipulated in the Treaty and included the application to industry of the principle of the eight-hour day or forty-eight hour week; the prevention or mitigation of unemployment; the employment of women before and after childbirth, during the night and in unhealthy processes; the employment of children during the night and in unhealthy processes, and the age at which they should be employed; the extension and application of the International Convention adopted at Berne in 1906 on the prohibition of night work for women and of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches. As some of the items on the agenda related to matters falling within the jurisdiction of the provinces, the Canadian Government delegates were accompanied by advisers nominated by the provinces.

The second session of the International Labour Conference was held at Genoa in June and July, 1920, and in accordance with a resolution adopted at the Washington Conference, was devoted to the consideration of matters relating to seamen. Draft conventions were adopted regarding facilities for finding employment for seamen, the minimum age of employment of children on board ship and unemployment indemnity in case of loss or foundering of ship. Recommendations were passed concerning hours of work in inland navigation, hours of work on fishing vessels, unemployment insurance for seamen and the establishment of national seamen's codes. Resolutions were also adopted for the instruction and guidance of the International Labour Office concerning the prevention and treatment of venereal disease in the mercantile marine, insurance against unemployment, special clauses in articles of agreement and seamen's codes and the education of children or apprenticed seamen. The prohibition of the employment of trimmers and stokers under eighteen