

*International Labour Organization*

implement protection for human rights. It has adopted 128 draft treaties, known as International Labour Conventions and has secured more than 3,000 ratifications of these conventions by member countries.

Nor, happily, is there any diminishing of I.L.O. activity. In recent years there has been a heavy involvement in operational programs of technical assistance to the developing countries. It has now launched a world employment program aimed at the formation of skills and the creation of jobs throughout the world.

*[Translation]*

The Canadian government, Mr. Speaker, is happy to join with the provincial governments, and the labour and employer organizations in celebrating this important anniversary.

Canada is about to issue a commemorative stamp to mark this anniversary of I.L.O. The Public Archives will soon hold an exhibition of documents relating to Canada's participation in I.L.O., and later this year a tripartite conference will be held in Ottawa.

*[English]*

We take pride in this organization which commands the support of Canadian workers and employers and extend to it our greetings on its anniversary and our best wishes for its continued leadership in its worldwide struggle for social justice.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Prime Minister today should make a statement relating to the fiftieth anniversary of an international labour movement in which Canada, as a founding member, has played a significant part.

The statement was both adequate and appropriate, stressing Canada's continuing interest in and contribution to the International Labour Organization. We should bear in mind however, as I think the Prime Minister has, that we should deal with this International Labour Organization on this occasion as more than a set of international initials, another of those bodies to which Canada contributes from a sense of duty and in order to discharge international obligations. This organization is an outstanding and enduring result of a contribution arising from the Treaty of Versailles. This organization survived the demise of the League of Nations and became associated with the United Nations. This was the first organization to

[Mr. Trudeau.]

form such a relationship as that with UNESCO.

This organization is above all an organization dealing with people. The fact that the government is commemorating this event, as it intends to, indicates the involvement with I.L.O. which is felt in this country. This involvement is felt all over the world. The human rights conventions of the I.L.O. have brought new hope and courage to the people in Tanzania where the new apprenticeship program is being designed, and to people in many other countries.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I commend the government for the effort that is being made in this anniversary year to secure ratification by Canada of some of the conventions relating to human rights and working conditions. It has been a tragic feature, a depressing feature of our I.L.O. experience that owing to our structure in Canada so many vital and essential I.L.O. conventions have not been ratified, removing therefrom the powerful support that ratification by Canada would have marshalled.

It is rather ironical that this relationship with the International Labour Organization should expose our inadequate constitutional development, when it is remembered that the birth of the I.L.O. was so intimately associated with the development of Canada as a sovereign state. Hon. members will recall that it was in connection with the Treaty of Versailles and the related conventions that the Prime Minister of the day, Sir Robert Borden, asserted the independent position of Canada, and Canada signed the agreement and became a member of this organization as an independent country and not simply as part of the British Empire.

This anniversary therefore reminds us of our international development over the 50 year period. It also reminds us of our own constitutional imperfections, and Canadians cannot be happy that, even though we were a founding participant of this organization, we have not been able to ratify as many of its conventions as we would like.

An aspect of the I.L.O. that gives considerable satisfaction and adds to its pre-eminence in the field of dealing with the needs of people is the close working relationship now being developed between the I.L.O. and the Canadian International Development Agency. This co-operation ought to be very fruitful, bringing to the foreign aid program of Canada the valuable world wide contacts of the I.L.O. organization at the level of working men and women in many nations.