

forced labour, freedom of association, migration, social security, women's work, juvenile employment, occupational safety and health, labour statistics, co-operation, etc.; every year groups of experts meet to study urgent problems in some of these fields. The most important conclusions of these bodies are eventually referred to the annual Conference for more thorough discussion, with a view to the adoption of Conventions and Recommendations.

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION

Canada's participation in international labour affairs dates from 1910, when Mr. Mackenzie King attended a labour conference at Lugano, Switzerland. The next year, as Minister of Labour, Mr. King acted on one of the conference recommendations by introducing a bill in the House of Commons to prohibit the use of white phosphorous in making matches. As already mentioned, Canada took an active part in the discussion, which led to the establishment of the International Labour Organization in 1919 and has supported it fully ever since. Canada has been represented by government, employer and worker delegates at each session of the International Labour Conference and has participated in many other ILO activities.

As early as 1926, Canada ratified four ILO Maritime Conventions and, by 1963, had ratified a total of 20 Conventions dealing with conditions of employment of seafarers and dockers, hours of work and weekly rest in industry, minimum wage-fixing machinery, employment service organization, and so forth. Canada reports regularly to the ILO on the measures that have been taken to implement these and other Conventions. Canadian legislation on these subjects is considered to equal or exceed the requirements of the various Conventions. Canada is a federal country, and the fact that most labour matters are wholly or partly under provincial jurisdiction has placed obstacles in the way of the Federal Government, up to the present, ratifying many of the ILO Conventions.

In the past Canada obtained helpful advice from the International Labour Office when such matters as conciliation in labour disputes, unemployment insurance, and establishment of employment services were being considered. More recently, Canada has been able to repay this assistance by contributing to the development of the less-industrialized nations. The ILO has used Canadian experts in its technical-assistance programme in under-developed countries, and has sent trainees from such countries to Canada for study and on-the-job training. A manual entitled "National Employment Services -- Canada" is used by the ILO in setting up employment services and training employment-office staff in developing countries.

While the Department of External Affairs has the general responsibility for handling Canada's international relations, including its United Nations commitments, the Department of Labour is the official liaison agency between the Canadian Government and the ILO. With the expansion in ILO activities after the Second World War, a special branch of the Department of Labour was established to work in close co-operation with the Department of External Affairs, with other federal departments, with the provincial departments of labour and with the employers' and workers' organizations, all of which have an interest in the ILO. In this way, the ILO is kept informed on the progress of industrial and economic conditions in Canada, and the Canadian governments and organizations concerned are kept in touch with developments in the international field. Each year some progress is made toward uniform and higher labour standards in Canada, in line with the International Labour Code, and Canada thus plays its part in furthering the purposes of the ILO.