

on work in connection with vocational training, hours of work and the classification of dangerous substances. The Petroleum Committee took action on items before it concerning principles used in determining wages in the petroleum industry and in the operation of social services. The Textiles Committee concerned itself primarily with the question of guaranteed wages in the textile industry and with textiles in international trade.

International Telecommunication Union

The year 1952 was an important one in the history of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Organized in its present form in 1947, the Union is the direct successor of the various international bodies which since 1865 have been concerned with the regulation of telegraph, telephone and radio services.¹ On October 3, 1952, the Plenipotentiary Conference, which is the supreme body of ITU, opened in Buenos Aires. Under the terms of the ITU Convention of October 2, 1947, the Plenipotentiary Conference is required to meet once every five years for the purpose of studying the report of the Administrative Council on the activities of the Union; examining the accounts and establishing the budget; and electing the members of the Administrative Council for the next five years. But the main task of each Plenipotentiary Conference is to consider whether any revision of the Convention of the Union is necessary. Previous such conferences had been held in Madrid and Cairo before the war and in Atlantic City in 1947, when the Convention now to be revised was drawn up.

The Buenos Aires Conference in 1952 was faced with a large number of proposals for the revision of the Convention. The most far-reaching changes it has adopted are those dealing with the Administrative Council, which supervises the administration of the financial affairs of ITU and is responsible for the scheduling of the various technical conferences. The Administrative Council has now been provided with additional duties of an administrative nature in order to permit smoother functioning of the ITU between Plenipotentiary Conferences. The Council can now conclude, on behalf of the Union, temporary working agreements with international organizations and with the United Nations, which, however, must be submitted to the next Plenipotentiary Conference for confirmation. A new Council of 18 members has been elected for the next five years. Elected to the Council in 1947, Canada has now been re-elected.

The Conference confirmed the decisions of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference (EARC) which met at Geneva in 1952. This should expedite implementation of the EARC agreement and should eventually improve the use of radio frequencies throughout the world. The essential duties of the International Frequency Registration Board have been considerably enlarged by the Conference to include the recording of frequency assignments in accordance with any decisions that may be taken by competent

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1951-52*, pp. 109-110.