

The aim of the ILO is to promote social justice by improving working and living conditions in all parts of the world. It strives to achieve this objective by setting international labour and social standards in conventions and recommendations adopted at the regular sessions of the International Labour Conference, by providing technical assistance, and by publishing reports and the results of studies undertaken by its staff.

In its forty years of existence, the International Labour Organization has adopted 114 conventions and 112 recommendations covering a wide variety of subjects. Canada has ratified a total of 19 conventions dealing with labour statistics, hours of work and weekly rest in industry, conditions of employment of seafarers and dock workers, minimum wage-fixing machinery, the employment service, and the abolition of forced labour. As Canada is a federal state in which most labour matters lie wholly or partly within the jurisdiction of the provinces, constitutional considerations impede the ratification by Canada of most ILO conventions.

The 43rd International Labour Conference met in Geneva from June 3 to 25, 1959 and was attended by over 900 delegates, advisers and observers from 75 member nations. The Conference adopted conventions concerning the minimum age of admission of fishermen to employment, the medical examination of fishermen, and fishermen's articles of agreement; and it adopted a recommendation concerning the organization of health services in places of employment. It took preliminary action on three other instruments on which final discussion will be held in 1960: a proposed draft convention supplemented by a recommendation dealing with the protection of workers against ionizing radiations, and a proposed draft recommendation on the question of collaboration between public authorities and employers' and workers' organizations at the industrial and national levels. It also held a general discussion on the problems of non-manual workers and approved a report outlining a long-term programme for the ILO with respect to the problems of these workers.

The Conference adopted resolutions concerning the problems of young workers, ILO activities in the field of occupational health and safety, coverage by workmen's compensation of harmful effects of ionizing radiations, and the development of ILO activities in respect of the problems of underdeveloped countries.

As in the past two years, the Conference rejected the credentials of the government, employer and worker delegates from Hungary.

At this session the ILO budget for 1960 was approved, totalling about \$9.0 million. Canada's assessment, which is calculated at the rate of 3.51% for 1960, amounts to a net contribution of \$316,037.

The Conference adopted a new procedure for dealing with the membership of its technical committees which was designed to resolve the difficulties experienced at previous sessions over the question of seating employer delegates from Communist countries of Eastern Europe.<sup>1</sup> The new procedure was put into effect immediately at the 43rd Conference.

During 1959 the Governing Body held its 141st, 142nd and 143rd sessions and discussed a variety of matters including improvements in the practical methods of working of the International Labour Conference, freedom of association, ILO programmes and programme appraisals for 1959-64, finances, and the composition and agendas of various ILO meetings. It also reviewed the membership and size of its ten industrial and analogous committees. Canada secured membership on the same eight committees on which it had been represented since 1954: Inland Transport, Coal Mines, Iron and Steel, Metal Trades, Textiles, Petroleum, Chemical Industries, and

<sup>1</sup> See *Canada and the United Nations* 1958, pp. 61-2.