

Street, Ottawa), and Field Offices have been set up in certain under-developed areas to carry out the technical assistance programme.

In addition to these three principal organs, there are numerous conferences, commissions and committees to meet specific needs. Regional Conferences of American, European Asian, and Near Eastern countries are held every three years. Eight Industrial Committees, established after 1945, also meet every two or three years to discuss special problems affecting particular industries. There are Advisory Committees in many fields such as 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 phosphorus in making matches. As already mentioned, Canada took an active part in the discussions 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 every annual Conference and has participated in many other ILO activities.

As early as 1926 Canada ratified four ILO Maritime Conventions, and by 1955 had ratified a total of eighteen Conventions dealing with conditions of employment of seafarers and dockers, hours of work and weekly rest in industry, minimum wage-fixing machinery, and employment service organization. Canada reports annually to the ILO on the measures that have been taken to implement these Conventions. Our 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 places obstacles in the way of the federal government 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 on "National Employment Services—Canada" is used by the ILO in setting up employment services and training employment office staff in less-industrialized countries.

From 1940 to 1948 the ILO maintained temporary headquarters in Montreal, and a bronze plaque at McGill University commemorates this phase of the Organization's history. In 1946 the Minister of Labour for Canada was elected President of the Annual Conference, and in 1955 the Deputy Minister