

eight of chief industrial importance and had been crowded out by the agreement to admit Germany. Every one agreed that Spain should be elected. It was also agreed that South America, with between fifteen and twenty members in the League and in the International Labour Organization, should be entitled to at least one member on the governing body, and Argentina was therefore selected. That left two places for the other countries of Europe, Asia, and America; and the House, I think, will be gratified to know that, by a vote of the representatives of nations of the world assembled in Washington, Canada was one of the two so chosen.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend will no doubt remember that prior to the creation of the League of Nations there existed in Switzerland what was known as the International Labour Office. Different countries were entitled to send representatives to that conference each year. Is there any privilege or right which the Dominions may have to-day under the League of Nations which they had not, prior to the establishment of the League, in connection with the International Labour Office?

Mr. ROWELL: The two organizations are entirely different.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the difference?

Mr. ROWELL: The International Labour Office in Switzerland was a purely voluntary organization, the sole purpose of which was to promote international co-operation in matters of labour legislation and questions of interest to labour. The International Labour Organization under the provisions of the Peace Treaty, has a very important jurisdiction in dealing with labour problems and in imposing certain obligations upon the Governments concerned.

Mr. FIELDING: Has it power to enforce them?

Mr. ROWELL: Perhaps it would be desirable to discuss the whole question of the work of the International Labour Conference at Washington, on some other occasion when we have time to go into the entire labour situation. I shall be very glad to do so on the estimates of the Department of Labour, or when some other suitable occasion offers.

Mr. MCKENZIE: Was the United States of America represented at the Labour Conference at Washington? If it was, was it

represented by virtue of the Treaty of Peace which it has so far refused to ratify?

Mr. ROWELL: The United States was not officially represented at that conference. Under the terms of the Treaty, the conference was to be called by President Wilson, and he did call it, with the approval of Congress. The United States was not represented under the terms of the Treaty, but on the invitation of the Organization Committee of the Conference, and with the approval of President Wilson, Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Labour in the government of President Wilson, accepted the position of Presiding Officer of the Conference. The Conference passed a resolution inviting representatives of the employers and employees of the United States to be present at the conference and to take part in its discussions, and pursuant to that resolution organized labour in the United States nominated Mr. Gompers as their representative to be present at the conference. Mr. Gompers was present and did take part in the discussions, although he was present only on a limited number of occasions. Apart from that the United States was not represented at the conference.

Mr. EULER: Was it eligible for representation on the governing body?

Mr. ROWELL: No, the United States was not eligible for representation, and I should perhaps add, in that connection, that when it came to a question of electing the six representatives of labour on the governing body—Mr. Draper of Canada was elected as one of the number. So that at the present time Canada is represented by two members on the governing body. It is only right to say, in this connection, that Mr. Draper recognizes that if the United States comes into the International Labour Organization organized labour in the United States should be represented and Mr. Draper will make way for Mr. Gompers as head of the American Federation of Labour. That was understood among the labour delegates at the conference.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Has Mr. Draper any authority to bind this country in any way in regard to any action which he may take?

Mr. ROWELL: None whatever.

Mr. FIELDING: Then, what good comes of it?

Mr. ROWELL: With all deference to my hon. friend, I may say that great good comes