

American Bar Association, at the Inter-American Demographic Congress (Mexico City, 1943), at the First Pan American Conference on Criminal Jurisprudence (Santiago, Chile, 1944), at the Conference on Cartography (Rio de Janeiro, 1944), and she was represented by an observer at the First Conference of the Commissions of Inter-American Development (New York, 1944).

Not all of these conferences, however, were held under official government sponsorship. It is of some interest to note that in his speech on foreign affairs in the House of Commons on August 4, 1944, the Prime Minister said that "the government (Also) looks with favor upon the presence of Canadian officials and experts at technical and scientific conferences of a Pan American character."

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

The conferences described above and the conventions and agreements that have been concluded at them constitute the principal manifestation of the Pan American movement. But the movement is something more than simply a series of conferences. There are a number of inter-American organs and organizations which provide an institutional basis for the movement and carry on the work of the conferences between meetings. There are now well over threescore such inter-American organs, although some of them are unofficial in the sense that they are not directly sponsored by governments.

The general organization is the Union of American Republics (called the Union of American States in the unratified convention of 1928) which was created by resolution at the Washington Conference in 1889. In popular usage this organization is usually referred to as the Pan American Union. Strictly speaking, however, the latter term should be reserved to describe the permanent secretariat and administrative agency of the organization which has its headquarters in Washington.

The Pan American Union has approximately the same relationship to the Union of American Republics as the Secretariat of the League had to the League of Nations. The Pan American Union is under the management of a Governing Board on which each member of the Union is represented usually by its diplomatic representative in Washington. The Chairman of the Board has always been the Secretary of State of the United States, although this is no longer a legal necessity.

Originally, the duties of the secretariat were purely commercial; but its functions have been considerably extended over the years. It is responsible for preparing the agenda of conferences, implementing resolutions adopted at them, preparing reports, etc. but it is expressly prohibited from engaging in any political activity. The convention of 1928 not having been ratified by all member States the Union is still governed by resolutions of the conferences.

It will be impossible even to list the names of the other Pan American organs of which, as we have already indicated, there are a great number. Mention may be made, however, of a few of the most important. These include the Inter-American Financial and Economic Advisory Committee, the Inter-American Development Commission, the Inter-American Joint Defence Board, the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defence, the various agencies that have been set up to prepare codes of international law, the Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the Pan American Highway Commission and the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. It may be noted in passing that Canada is a member of several inter-American organizations, including the Inter-American Committee to Promote Social Security, the Inter-American Radio Office, and the Inter-American Statistical Institute.