

(2) The International Labour Conference is a world assembly of about 700 delegates, advisers and observers, meeting each year to discuss urgent world labour problems, to survey the general activities of the Organization, and to approve the annual budget. Each member nation may send four delegates (two government, one worker, and one employer) plus technical advisers. The Conference draws up and adopts International Labour Conventions and Recommendations for the voluntary guidance of legislatures and employers' and workers' organizations.

(3) The International Labour Office at Geneva, Switzerland, acts under the Director-General as the permanent secretariat, the research and information center, and the publishing house for the Organization. Branch Offices represent the ILO in various parts of the world (including a Canada Branch at 95 Rideau 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