

years, sent delegations to the 37th Conference but are required to settle their arrears of contributions before they can be accorded voting rights. Poland and Czechoslovakia are continuing members of the ILO.

At the 37th Conference a number of worker and employer delegates from Western countries objected to the seating of their counterparts from communist countries. It was argued that the employer delegates from the U.S.S.R. and other communist countries were in fact government officials and that it was against the constitution and principles of the ILO to seat them as employers. It was also contended that the worker delegates from these countries did not belong to organizations of work people enjoying the free right of association which is a fundamental premise of the ILO.

On the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, which examined the question thoroughly, the Conference rejected the protests and decided to seat the Soviet bloc employer and worker delegates. In essence, the majority view was that there was nothing in the ILO constitution to prevent acceptance of the communist delegates. The vote on the Soviet bloc employer delegates was 105 for acceptance, 79 against and 26 abstentions. The Canadian worker and employer representatives voted against seating the Soviet delegates. On the Soviet worker delegates the vote was 93 for seating them, 83 against and 30 abstentions. The Canadian workers and employers voted against. The Canadian Government delegates abstained from voting in both cases.

The list of the states of chief industrial importance, which are allocated non-elective seats on the Governing Body of the ILO, was revised in May of this year. The number of these seats had just been raised from eight to ten by a constitutional amendment. In accordance with the report of a Committee of Experts, which examined the relevant statistics of national income, working population, etc., these seats were allocated to: the United States, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, France, India, China, Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan. The U.S.S.R., Germany and Japan are new to the list. Brazil, formerly on the list, lost its place on the Governing Body by this revision.

The ILO has eight Industrial Committees, of all of which Canada is a member, which examine the problems of particular industries and report to the Governing Body. In the year under review three of them met. The Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee discussed productivity in the building industry and the guaranteed annual wage at its meeting in November 1953. The Inland Transport Committee, which met in February 1954, examined conditions of employment in road transport and welfare facilities for dock workers. The Coal Mines Committee met in December 1953 and discussed, among other subjects, productivity in coal mines, welfare facilities and the training of young workers.