

(2) TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Conference was held at Montreal from 19th September, 1946, to 9th October, 1946. The New Zealand delegation was as follows :—

Delegates representing the Government—

The Hon. David Wilson, High Commissioner for New Zealand in Canada.

Miss R. T. Skyring, Inspector of Factories, Department of Labour.

Delegate representing the employers of New Zealand—

Mr. H. E. Edgley, Secretary, Hawke's Bay Employers' Association.

Delegate representing the workers of New Zealand—

Mr. J. H. Thompson, Secretary, New Zealand Plumbers' and Gasfitters' Union.

Mr. H. G. Duncan, Legal Officer, Department of Labour, was appointed as Adviser to the Government delegation.

The following items were on the agenda :—

- (i) Director's Report.
- (ii) Constitutional Questions.
- (iii) Protection of Children and Young Workers—
 - (a) Medical examination for fitness of employment (young workers), second discussion ;
 - (b) Restriction of night work of children and young persons (non-industrial occupations), second discussion.
- (iv) Minimum Standards of Social Policy in Dependent Territories (Provisions suitable for a Convention), first discussion.
- (v) Reports on the Application of Conventions (Article 22 of the Constitution).

(3) CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

As mentioned in last year's report, the 1945 Paris Session took action on certain constitutional questions of immediate urgency, the remainder being left for consideration at the next Session. Accordingly at the Twenty-ninth Session the Conference approved several decisions of importance for the future status of the International Labour Organization. The Conference approved an agreement defining the terms of relationship between the United Nations and the I.L.O. whereby the United Nations recognizes the Organization as a specialized agency "responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its basic instrument for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth therein." This agreement has now been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Basic changes in the constitution of the Organization necessary for the carrying-on of its work efficiently in the post-war world were approved by the Conference in the form of an Instrument of Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, 1946. This will come into effect with ratification of approval of the Instrument by two-thirds of the member States of the Organization, including five of the eight States which hold non-elective seats on the governing body as States of chief industrial importance. The effect of the more important amendments is : (1) to facilitate co-operation between the Organization and the United Nations ; (2) to clarify and give greater recognition to the position occupied by the governing body ; (3) to increase the obligations of the member States with respect to action on International Labour Conventions ; (4) to clarify the obligations of Federal States in respect to Conventions and Recommendations ; (5) to improve the procedure for the application of Conventions to dependent territories. The Instrument of Amendment was ratified by the New Zealand Government on 16th June, 1947.