

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

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The International Labour Review.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW has been established and the first number now appears, in fulfilment of the Treaty of Peace, Article 396, paragraph 4, which declares: "The International Labour Office will edit and publish in French and English, and in such other languages as the Governing Body may think desirable, a periodical paper dealing with problems of industry and employment of international interest."

The Office has from the beginning issued publications more or less periodical. The Members of the Governing Body and the Governments belonging to the International Labour Organisation wished to be kept informed in regard to the work of the Office and the progress of labour legislation. At first duplicated circulars were sent to them at irregular intervals. This irregular service has developed into the weekly *Official Bulletin*, which records the internal work of the Organisation, publishes the decisions of the Governing Body, together with notices, circulars and official correspondence, and gives the progress of national legislation intended to make effective the international Draft Conventions.

From the beginning a daily review of the Press was prepared and reproduced on a copying machine for circulation within the Office. In this case also certain Members of the Governing Body, representatives of labour and of industrial organisations and Governments asked for this compilation. To meet the demand for current up-to-date information, the roneoed *Daily Summary* was established, and has grown into the printed *Daily Intelligence*. A growing need for more exact and detailed information made it necessary to provide for more careful study and research, and for issuing the results of these researches as *Studies and Reports*. The publication of translations and reprints of the more important labour laws, formerly done by the old International Labour Office at Basle, was provided for in the *Legislative Series*.

There still remained, however, a gap in the publications of the International Labour Office. There was needed a periodical which would bring together the statistical and other briefer scientific information regarding labour and industry from all nations. The new INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW will perform internationally much the same functions as are now being performed for certain countries by their official national publications. The new REVIEW will contain brief scientific articles and important information relating to labour and industry, written in readable, non-technical language. It will occupy a place between the *Daily Intelligence* on the one

hand and the more pressing and more specialized *Studies and Reports* on the other hand. The *Studies and Reports* consist of monographs limited to a single special subject or phase of development, too long for inclusion in the REVIEW or of such great interest and immediate importance as to require publication separately as quickly as possible. The matter going to make up the REVIEW will consist in part of the results and findings of independent studies and researches undertaken especially with the object of producing articles for the REVIEW, and in part of the results of collecting, sifting, correlating, analysing and compiling information already issued in official and non-official publications.

The issuing of the first number of the INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW has been long delayed because of the great difficulty in recruiting competent, well-trained editors. But in these times of stress, when labour and industrial problems are pressing for solution, the world expects the International Labour Office to issue a publication the value of which cannot be questioned, to present impartially the facts needed by Governments, employers and employees to enable them to deal with the wholly unprecedented problems of the day. Though the editorial staff is still far from complete, publication of the INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REVIEW can no longer be delayed.

This first number is inevitably very imperfect and incomplete. The difficulties have been greatly increased by the failure of many Governments to furnish official periodical publications and reports in response to the request of the International Labour Office. Much valuable information of great interest internationally has been omitted because the source material which is known to exist has been unobtainable. It is hoped and believed that Governments, employers and workers will appreciate the importance of sending promptly to the International Labour Office all reports, periodicals and other information of international significance, whether specifically requested by the Office to do so or not. Only by the co-operation of all classes and all countries is it possible to establish and continue a truly International publication dealing with all countries and all phases of industrial and labour matters.

When a staff of trained editorial specialists has been created and information flows more quickly into the Office, the REVIEW will be extended to cover more subjects and more countries, while continuing the publication each month of information and statistics presented in a uniform manner upon all the more important phases of industrial life.