

# L'ITALIANO DE' CANADA

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## UNEMPLOYMENT AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELDS

THE Representative of the Italian Government at the Administrative Council of the International Labour Office wrote on 25 July to the President of the Council and made formal request that the important question of the reduction of the length of the working day should be brought before an early meeting of the International Labour Conference.

The proposal of the Representative of Italy is closely connected with the resolution adopted by the XVIth Meeting of the Conference whereby the Council was requested to consider the question of the introduction of the 40-hours week in all industrial countries with a view to the adoption at an early date of international regulations in the matter.

The Representative of Italy are truly proportionate to the the grounds of the serious nature of present unemployment. His proposal was most favourably received and a special meeting of the Council has been called to meet at Geneva on 21 September.

The call for his special meeting is based on a highly practical appreciation of the seriousness of the unemployment problem in the international field, that is to say, in that field wherein it is pre-eminently possible and desirable to take action with a view to the discovery of effective remedies policies on the part of individual States.

The usual remedies of a national character have already been applied on a more or less generous scale by a number of governments; and among them the most important are unemployment insurance schemes, the establishment of employment bureaux and the organisation of public works. Despite, however, all these well-meant efforts, the number of unemployed persons, justified his plea of urgency on regarded from the world standpoint, has shown a progressive and alarming increase as, combined with the normal cyclical influences, there are others at work traceable to that scientific progress in the various industries whereby an increase of production is accompanied by the unemployment of large masses of the working population. Hence unemployment is not only a result, but also a cause of the aggravation of the world economic crisis, inasmuch as, by reducing the purchasing capacity of the working class, it renders more acute the maladjustment of production to consumption.

As a rule, when reference is made to a world unemployment affecting 25 or 30 millions of persons, only the inaction and the sufferings of the individual workmen are taken into account and it is forgotten that the figure must be multiplied by at least five (so as to cover the family groups represented), in order to arrive at a just idea of the true proportion of the population which is today suffering from hunger and distress.

Hence effective and lasting solutions must be sought in a field of which the dimensions

The same representative of the Italian Government maintained the necessity of finding an international solution of the problem at the Labour Conference in 1925 and at the International Economic Conference of 1927. The following Labour Conference declared that only the cordial collaboration of those countries which are in possession of the three fundamental factors of production — land, capital and labour — could be effective for bringing about any stability in the world economic situation and in the conditions of the working classes, thus mitigating the effects of the terrible scourge of unemployment up to the point of elimination. It was however only at the time of the meeting of the Council of the International Labour Office in January 1932 that such a thoroughly "Italian" conception of a form of "totalitarian" co-operation began to permeate into the international public conscience, even though in this case it had only a limited objective, consisting in a duly regulated policy of public works carried out in the international field on the basis of agreed schemes.

Such then was the position of the matter in January of the present year, a year which has been marked by a striking worsening of the situation; at the same time it is clear that a proposal of such vast magnitude was made, not so much from the point of view of providing immediate remedies, as of setting up a current of ideas which would facilitate in the future the creation of a moral atmosphere favourable to the realisation of such a policy.

To-day, however, it is necessary to initiate measures which can be rapidly applied and produce equally rapid results. The proposal contained in the letter of the Italian representative at the International Labour Office takes the immediate present need as its fundamental justification.

In itself the proposal is limited to a request that the recommendations and enquiries of the Conference on the specific point of the reduction of working hours in industry in its relation

### IN GERMANIA LA MAREA POLITICA MONTA



La giovane Germania chiede il diritto alla vita. Ecco Hitler, nominato Cancelliere, con il suo stato maggiore e decine di migliaia di brava, pronto a ogni audacia per rialzare le sorti del paese.

### I RACCHETTIERI AL PALAZZO DI CITTA'



Suo Onore il Sindaco di Montreal, Fernand Rinfret, ha ricevuto sabato mattina i rappresentanti dell'Unione dei racchettieri internazionali, ed ha loro consegnato le chiavi della città. Nel numeroso gruppo di cultori del bellissimo sport invernale non mancavano le rappresentanti delle sezioni femminili.

to the possibility of an extended re-entry of workers into employment shall be speedily brought to a concrete issue.

For the rest there is no limitation set as to the practical and

detailed proposals that the re-opportunity, a reduction in the coming Conference should make: that is to say, whether it may prefer to suggest a reduction in the length of the working day

or, as certainly appears to be more working week; whether it is preferable to make general or partial suggestions according to the various types of industry, and

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