

DOCUMENT NO. 229
DECEMBER 10, 1936

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

SECRETARY'S NOTICES

SUGGESTED MID-WINTER DINNER MEETING

The Executive Committee suggests that, if a sufficient number of the members express their interest and intention to attend, an informal general dinner meeting might be held on Friday evening, February 5, 1937, at the University Club, New York City. If such a meeting should be held, there would be no set order of business, but an informal exchange of views at that time might be helpful in preparing the reports and the order of business for the annual meeting which will be held on Friday, May 7, 1937. The cost of such a dinner meeting to each person attending could probably be adjusted at \$4 or somewhat less. Kindly indicate on the attached return postcard whether you would attend such a dinner meeting if it is held.

The date selected is the date of the next regular quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee, which will be held in New York on that date in any event.

The dinner meeting might furnish a convenient occasion on which chairmen of committees can bring together their committees.

THE MARITIME LABOR CONVENTIONS

NEW CONVENTIONS ON CONDITIONS OF LABOR AT SEA

The International Labor Office at Geneva, of which the United States is now a member, has recently devoted its 21st Conference to maritime subjects—especially conditions of labor at sea. The result is a series of six new treaty texts which have now been issued to the world on the following subjects:

	<i>Final Vote</i>
Convention on Seamen's Welfare in Ports....	88 — 0
Convention on Professional Capacity of Ship's Officers	80 — 9
Convention on Shipowner's Liability for Sick- ness and Injury of Seamen.....	70 — 14
Convention on Sickness Insurance for Seamen.	60 — 5
Convention on Holidays with Pay for Seamen.	60 — 15
Convention on Hours of Work on Board Ships and on the Minimum Manning of Ships...	62 — 17

There are also five Resolutions on further subjects for the Agenda:

- Accident Insurance.
- Unemployment Insurance.
- Equality of Treatment for all Nationals.
- Safety and Crew Accommodations in Cargo Vessels.
- Statistics on Seamen's Wages.

These new Conventions represent the considered judgment of 95 delegates and 108 advisers representing 28 maritime states having 51,000,000 tons of shipping, or 82% of the total seagoing merchant tonnage of the world. The only important shipping countries absent were Germany and Italy.

The American delegation consisted of the following persons appointed by the President:

United States Government delegates

- Robert W. Bruere, member of Camden (Shipbuilding)
Arbitration Board
- Charles W. Sanders, Chief, Shipping Service, Bureau of
Navigation and Steamboat Inspection, Department of
Commerce

Shipowners' delegate

- Lt. Comdr. R. C. Lee, United States Naval Reserve, Vice-
President, Moore & McCormack Co., Inc., steamship
agents, New York, N. Y.

Seamen's delegate

- Paul Scharrenberg, legislative representative, International
Seamen's Union of America; Editor, The Seamen's
Journal

Advisers to the Government delegates

Kenyon B. FitzGerald, United States Naval Reserve,
Master Mariner

E. P. Holman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics,
Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

John Hemphill, attorney at law specializing in admiralty
practice, Philadelphia, Pa.

Carter Goodrich, United States Labor Commissioner at
Geneva

W. Ellison Chalmers, Assistant United States Labor Com-
missioner at Geneva

LaVerne Baldwin, American Consul at Geneva

Llewelyn E. Thompson, American Vice Consul at Geneva

Advisers to the shipowners' delegate

Paul Henry Harwood, Assistant Manager, Marine Depart-
ment of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, New
York, N. Y.

N. T. Lawrence, Assistant European General Manager,
United States Lines, London

Advisers to the seamen's delegate

Bertram Warn, Baltimore Agent for the Marine Cooks
and Stewards' Union of the Atlantic and Gulf

John McGinn, Detroit Agent for the Marine Firemen,
Oilers, Water-tenders, and Coal Passers' Union of the
Great Lakes.

The text of the new Conventions and a report of the discus-
sions, together with a report on the previous work of the Inter-
national Labor Office on maritime subjects, are all obtainable at
the Washington Office of the International Labor Organization,
734 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D. C. In writing, requests
should be made for—

Industrial and Labor Information, Vol. LX, Nos. 2, 4 and
5, costing 15¢ each;

“Brief Report of the Maritime Work of the International
Labor Organization, 1929-1936,” costing 25¢,

or 70¢ altogether.

The full report of the 21st (Maritime) Conference, and a
volume on Maritime Statistics, are expected to be ready for
distribution in January; the price has not yet been fixed.

Up to the present, the International Labor Conference has adopted seven Conventions dealing with working conditions of seamen. These seven "Maritime" Conventions and the ratifications are as follows:

Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (Series No. 7),
adopted at the Second Session of the Conference at Genoa, 1920

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Argentina	30.11.33	Hungary	1.3.28
Australia	28.6.35	Irish Free State.....	4.9.25
Belgium	4.2.25	Italy	14.7.33
Brazil	8.6.36	Japan	7.6.24
Bulgaria	16.3.23	Latvia	3.6.26
Canada	31.3.26	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Chile	18.10.35	Netherlands	26.3.25
Colombia	20.6.33	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Cuba	6.8.28	Norway	7.10.27
Denmark	12.5.24	Poland	21.6.24
Dominican Republic..	4.2.33	Rumania	8.5.22
Estonia	3.3.23	Spain	20.6.24
Finland	10.10.25	Sweden	27.9.21
Germany*	11.6.29	Uruguay	6.6.33
Great Britain.....	14.7.21	Yugoslavia	1.4.27
Greece	16.12.25		

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia, Chile, France and India.

Unemployment Indemnity in Consequence of Shipwreck
(Series No. 8), adopted at Second Session at Genoa, 1920

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Argentina	30.11.33	Irish Free State.....	5.7.30
Australia	28.6.35	Italy	8.9.24
Belgium	4.2.25	Latvia	29.8.30
Bulgaria	16.3.23	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Canada	31.3.26	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Chile	18.10.35	Norway	21.7.36
Colombia	20.6.33	Poland	21.6.24
Cuba	6.8.28	Rumania	10.11.30
Estonia	3.3.23	Spain	20.6.24
France	21.3.29	Sweden	1.1.35
Germany*	4.3.30	Uruguay	6.6.33
Great Britain.....	12.3.26	Yugoslavia	30.9.29
Greece	16.12.25		

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia, India, Norway and Sweden.

* Germany's withdrawal became complete on October 21, 1935.

Employment or Hiring of Seamen (Series No. 9),
adopted at the Second Session at Genoa, 1920

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Argentina	30.11.33	Italy	8.9.24
Australia	3.8.25	Japan	23.11.22
Belgium	4.2.25	Latvia	3.6.26
Bulgaria	16.3.23	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Chile	18.10.35	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Colombia	20.6.33	Norway	23.11.21
Cuba	6.8.28	Poland	21.6.24
Estonia	3.3.23	Rumania	10.11.30
Finland	7.10.22	Spain	23.2.31
France	25.1.28	Sweden	27.9.21
Germany*	6.6.25	Uruguay	6.6.33
Greece	16.12.25	Yugoslavia	30.9.29

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark.

Minimum Age for Trimmers and Stokers (Series No. 15),
adopted at the Third Session at Geneva, 1921

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Argentina	26.5.36	India	20.11.22
Australia	28.6.35	Irish Free State.....	5.7.30
Belgium	19.7.26	Italy	8.9.24
Bulgaria	6.3.25	Japan	4.12.30
Canada	31.3.26	Latvia	9.9.24
Chile	18.10.35	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Colombia	20.6.33	Netherlands	17.6.31
Cuba	7.7.28	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Denmark	12.5.24	Norway	7.10.27
Estonia	8.9.22	Poland	21.6.24
Finland	10.10.25	Rumania	18.8.23
France	16.1.28	Spain	20.6.24
Germany*	11.6.29	Sweden	14.7.25
Great Britain.....	8.3.26	Uruguay	6.6.33
Greece	14.6.30	Yugoslavia	1.4.27
Hungary	1.3.28		

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia.

* See footnote *ante*.

Medical Examination of Young Persons Working at Sea
(Series No. 16), adopted at Third Session at Geneva, 1921

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Argentina	26.5.36	Hungary	1.3.28
Australia	28.6.35	India	20.11.22
Belgium	19.7.26	Irish Free State.....	5.7.30
Brazil	8.6.36	Italy	8.9.24
Bulgaria	6.3.25	Japan	7.6.24
Canada	31.3.26	Latvia	9.9.24
Chile	18.10.35	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Colombia	20.6.33	Netherlands	9.3.28
Cuba	7.7.28	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Estonia	8.9.22	Poland	21.6.24
Finland	10.10.25	Rumania	18.8.23
France	22.3.28	Spain	20.6.24
Germany*	11.6.29	Sweden	14.7.25
Great Britain.....	8.3.26	Uruguay	6.6.33
Greece	28.6.30	Yugoslavia	1.4.27

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia and Denmark.

Seamen's Articles of Agreement (Series No. 22),
adopted at the Ninth Session at Geneva, 1926

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Australia	1.4.35	India	31.10.32
Belgium	3.10.27	Irish Free State.....	5.7.30
Bulgaria	29.11.29	Italy	10.10.29
Chile	18.10.35	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Colombia	20.6.33	Mexico	12.5.34
Cuba	7.7.28	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Estonia	10.5.29	Poland	8.8.31
France	4.4.28	Spain	23.2.31
Germany*	20.9.30	Uruguay	6.6.33
Great Britain.....	14.6.29	Yugoslavia	30.9.29

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia, Canada and Spain(?).

Repatriation of Seamen (Series No. 23),
adopted at the Ninth Session at Geneva, 1926

	<i>Date of Ratification</i>		<i>Date of Ratification</i>
Belgium	3.10.27	Italy	10.10.29
Bulgaria	29.11.29	Luxemburg	16.4.28
Colombia	20.6.33	Mexico	12.5.34
Cuba	7.7.28	Nicaragua	12.4.34
Estonia	9.7.28	Poland	8.8.31
France	4.3.29	Spain	23.2.31
Germany*	14.3.30	Uruguay	6.6.33
Irish Free State.....	5.7.30	Yugoslavia	30.9.29

Similar legislation has also been enacted by Australia, Canada and Spain(?).

* See footnote ante.

JURY TRIALS IN ADMIRALTY ON THE GREAT LAKES

The Harvard Law Review for December, 1936, Vol. L, page 350, publishes a note on the recent case of *Strusa v. Minnesota Atlantic Transit Co.* (Western District of New York), 1936 A. M. C. 710, 13 Fed. Supp. 872. The note, after reviewing the history of R. S. 566, concludes that "clearly the statute should be repealed." If the members of the Maritime Law Association should be in agreement with the conclusion of the Harvard Law Review note, it might be suitable for the Association to take steps to bring about the repeal of the statute.

HAGUE RULES IN FRANCE

Word has been received that the French Government will put the Hague Rules into force in France in the near future, probably in March, 1937. The necessary enabling legislation was enacted in March, 1936.

ARNOLD W. KNAUTH,
Secretary,
80 Broad Street,
New York, N. Y.