



Sketch of the new building of the International Labour Office.

*The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Mr. Chuard, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council, Mr. Schulthess, Chief of the Federal Department of Economy, and other representatives of the legislative, administrative, and judicial authorities of the Swiss Confederation and of the Canton and City of Geneva, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Swiss Government and of the Consular Corps, the Social Attachés accredited to the International Labour Office, representatives of the citizens and corporations of Geneva, the members of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, the Delegates and Advisers to the Fifth Session of the International Labour Conference, and the Delegates to the Conference on Customs Formalities convened by the League of Nations.*

*Special invitations were sent to the Members of the International Labour Legislation Commission of the Preliminary Peace Conference, which drafted Part XIII, and two of these members, Sir Malcolm Delevingne (Great Britain) and Professor Ernest Mahaim (Belgium), were happily able to be present. Unfortunately many of the members of the Commission, together with a number of other distinguished men who have been closely associated with the foundation or the subsequent development of the International Labour Organisation, were unable to attend.*

*The speeches made and messages read on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone are given below.*



The building at present occupied by the International Labour Office.



Why should we seek to conceal our joy ? Why should not I and my friend Butler, trusty fellow-worker in hours of trial, endeavour to describe the prolonged and persistent efforts which have led up to today's simple ceremony ?

We can never forget the early wanderings of the new-born International Labour Office.

After being officially constituted by the first meeting of its Governing Body in the Pan-American Building at Washington,



the Office was installed for a few days in January 1920 in two small rooms in the Hotel Astoria at Paris adjoining the offices of the Reparations Commission. From there it was moved to London, to a house in Seymour Place which the British Government had rented from a wealthy shipowner, whose views on social legislation were of a somewhat sceptical nature. It was there, overlooking Hyde Park, that the Office passed its first spring-time. Then came the delightful hospitality of the *Palazzo Reale* in Genoa, and for a time the silence of majestic halls was broken by the rattle of our typewriters. At length, on a bright 14th of July, day made memorable by the high daring of the French people, day symbolic of liberty to many nations, the Office was installed in the College on the Pregny hill.

Owing however to the wide scope of the duties assigned to the Office by the Treaty of Peace, and to the enthusiasm with which they were undertaken, the time soon came when the limits within which it was confined began to prove too