

administration. Notes or articles on these subjects are published in the *Labour Gazette*. In 1917 the Department published reports containing the text of the labour laws of the Dominion and provinces of Canada. The year 1915 was chosen as a starting point, and a compilation of the labour laws (Dominion and Provincial) existing in Canada at the end of that year was made from the most recent Revised Statutes and the subsequent annual volumes of statutes up to 1915. A brief introduction explaining the plan adopted in the selection and arrangement of material precedes the text of the laws, and an index completes the report. It is planned to print a volume of this nature every five years, and in the intervening period to issue annual reports covering the labour legislation for the year immediately preceding that of publication. The annual reports contain, in addition to the text of the laws, an introduction in which the legislation for the year is summarized under subject headings, and each report is fully indexed. Reports on the labour laws of 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919 have appeared in due course.

Fair Wages Branch.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation of schedules of minimum wage rates, which are inserted in Dominion Government contracts, and must be adhered to by contractors in the execution of the respective works. The number of fair wages schedules prepared since the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolution in 1900 up to the end of the year 1920 is 3,500, of which 337 were prepared during the years 1919 and 1920.

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.—The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907 (6-7 Edw. VII, c. 20) has attracted considerable favourable attention from legislators and publicists throughout the world. It distinctly forbids strikes or lockouts in industrial disputes affecting public utilities, until the matters in dispute have been submitted for the report of a Board of Conciliation and Investigation, consisting of three members, two appointed by the Minister of Labour on the recommendation of the respective parties to the dispute, the third on the recommendation of the first two, or if they fail to agree, by the Minister himself. After their report has been made, either of the parties to the dispute may reject it and declare a strike or lockout, which, however, is likely to involve the loss of the sympathy and support of the general public. The effect has been to diminish greatly the number of strikes and lockouts in such industries. On the application of the parties to the dispute, the machinery of the Act may be extended to other industries. A review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from its enactment in March, 1907, to the end of the fiscal year 1920, shows that in the thirteen years, 446 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 333 boards were established. In all but 27 cases strikes (or lockouts) were averted or ended. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1920, 72 applications for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation were received, and 46