

Manitoba also, a joint commission, composed of equal numbers of members of the legislature and of representatives of the workmen and their employers, was provided for at the last session of the legislature to study every phase of compensation, during the recess, with a view to eliminating the need for yearly amendments to the Act and to placing it upon a permanent basis. The report of this committee is likely to be presented at the legislative session early in 1925.

Workmen's Compensation Acts in Canada cover practically the whole industrial field, including manufacturing, construction, lumbering, mining, quarrying, transportation and public utilities. In Ontario certain industries (including municipal undertakings, railways, car shops, telegraphs, telephones, etc.) are made individually liable to pay compensation, and are, therefore, not called upon to contribute to the general compensation or accident funds. Other industries, with the exception of those which are specifically excluded, may be brought under the terms of the Act on application from the employer, with the Board's approval. In Alberta the consent of the employees is also required. In most provinces the excluded classes include travellers, casual labourers, out-workers, domestic servants and farm labourers. In Nova Scotia, however, an amendment was passed in 1922 providing for the admission of farm labourers and domestics on application of their employers. British Columbia in the same year admitted farm labourers and repealed a former rule excluding office workers.

The Dominion Parliament in 1918 passed an Act (8 Geo. V, c. 15) providing that the compensation to be paid where employees of the Dominion Government were killed or injured in the course of their employment should be the same as they or their dependants would receive in private employment in the province where the accident occurred, the amount to be determined by the Provincial Board or other constituted authority and paid by the Dominion Government.

The principal features of the Workmen's Compensation and Employers' Liability Acts in force in the various provinces during 1923 were given on pages 718-721 of the 1922-23 Year Book.

Important amendments were made during 1924 in the Workmen's Compensation Acts of Alberta, New Brunswick and Ontario.

In Alberta the percentage of payment in disability cases was raised from 55 to 62½; this is the proportion of average weekly earnings allowed in cases of permanent total disability, while, in cases of partial disability, it is the proportion of the difference between the workers' former and present earning capacity. It was arranged that the average earnings of a person with a permanent total disability should be agreed upon by the employer and the workman. The time limit in which claims must be made was raised to 12 months in another amendment. The Alberta Act was also changed during 1924 to provide for a higher scale of payment to the dependent children of a deceased workman; \$12 is allowed for the first, \$10 for the second, \$9 for the third and \$8 each for other children. Where children are the only dependants, \$15 per month is allowed for each child.

A 1924 amendment to the Ontario Act contains a new feature in compensation legislation in Canada, enabling the Board to spend up to \$100,000 on the rehabilitation of injured workmen who are incapacitated from following their previous occupations.

Amendments to the New Brunswick Act require the Board in that province to penalize any employers who fail to submit their payrolls, and provide that the assessments under the Act shall be a first lien upon the property of an employer.