

18.—Child Labour Laws of Canada

Regulations respecting	Prince Edward Island.	Nova Scotia.	New Brunswick.	Quebec.	Ontario.
Child labour in street trades.	—	No child under 16 may engage in any street trade during school hours unless he has a certificate signed by a competent authority that he possesses certain educational qualifications.	—	Children under 16 may not sell papers or trade in any street or public place, unless they can write and read fluently and possess certificates of study; such street occupations may not be carried on after 8 p.m.	No child under 16 years may engage in any street trade or occupation between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. No license to engage in public performing may be issued by the head of the council of a municipality to a child under 10 years.

II.—WAGES.

Statistics of rates of wages and hours of labour have been collected and published for recent years by the Department of Labour in a series of bulletins supplementary to the Labour Gazette. Report No. 1 of this series was issued in March, 1921. The records upon which the statistics are based begin in most cases with the year 1901. Index numbers have been calculated to show the general movement of wage rates; 21 classes of labour are covered in this series back to 1901, 4 classes of coal miners back to 1900, and common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades and lumbering back to 1911. These index numbers are based upon wage rates in 1913, taken as 100.

The accompanying table of index numbers (Table 19) shows the relative changes from year to year. A downward movement appeared in most of the groups in 1921 and 1922, since the peak was reached in 1920. The index numbers for 1923 and 1924 show, on the whole, a slightly upward trend.

In the building trades there were many instances of decreases of 10 cents per hour in 1921 and 5 cents per hour in 1922, but during 1923 and again in 1924 there were some advances. In the metal trades there had been considerable reductions during 1921 and further decreases were made in 1922, while in 1923 and 1924 wages in these trades showed a slight increase. For electric railways the index number averaged lower in both 1921 and 1922, but the wage rates were almost stationary in 1923 and 1924. On steam railways a general cut in wage rates in 1921 was followed in 1922 by decreases for shop employees, maintenance-of-way workers, freight handlers, clerks and miscellaneous classes, but there were no changes for train crews and few changes for telegraphers. At the end of 1922 and early in 1923 there were partial restorations in some cases in the rates for maintenance-of-way employees, freight handlers and clerical employees. In coal-mining there were decreases in the Vancouver Island mines each year, although there were slight increases in the summer of 1922 over the preceding three-month period, in accordance with the agreement by which quarterly adjustments are made, corresponding to changes in the cost of living. In south-eastern British Columbia and southern