

VIII.—LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

I.—LABOUR.

1.—Occupations of the People.

An article on the occupations of the people, by age and sex, as at the census of 1911 and preceding censuses, appeared at pp. 659–663 of the 1924 edition of the Year Book. Owing to lack of space, this article is not reprinted in the present edition.

2.—Dominion Department of Labour.

The Department of Labour of the Dominion Government was established in 1900 under the authority of the Conciliation Act, 1900 (63-64 Vict., c. 24). Its chief duties originally comprised the administration of certain provisions of this statute designed to aid in the prevention and settlement of labour disputes, the administration of the Government's fair wage policy for the protection of workmen employed on Dominion Government contracts and on works aided by grant of public funds, the collection and classification of statistical and other information relative to conditions of labour and the publication of a monthly periodical known as the "Labour Gazette." From 1900 to 1909 the Department was administered by the Postmaster-General, who was also Minister of Labour. It was constituted a separate Department under the Labour Department Act, 1909 (8-9 Edw. VII, c. 22).

The work of the Department was greatly increased in 1907 by the passage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907 (6-7 Edw. VII, c. 20). At present the Department is also charged with the administration of an Act passed in 1918 known as the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (8-9 Geo. V, c. 21), the Government Annuities Act, 1908 (7-8 Edw. VII, c. 5), the Technical Education Act, enacted in 1919 (9-10 Geo. V, c. 73), and the Combines Investigation Act, 1923. The scope of the Department has increased in other directions, especially in the investigation of questions relating to the cost of living and in connection with the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations.

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.¹—The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907 (6-7 Edw. VII, c. 20) has attracted considerable favourable attention from legislators and publicists throughout the world. As adopted in 1907, it forbids strikes or lockouts in industrial disputes affecting mines and public utilities until the matters in dispute have been dealt with by 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, a course adopted, however, only in a small percentage of cases. The machinery of the Act may be extended to other industries with the consent of the parties concerned. In January, 1925, a judgment was rendered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council declaring that the Act as it stood

¹See page 241 of Labour Gazette for Feb., 1925, for text of judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council in regard to the validity of this statute.