

Changes in Child Labour Laws in 1927.—During 1927 a number of changes were made in the laws relating to the employment of children. In Nova Scotia the minimum age for the employment of boys in metal mines was raised from 12 to 16. In coal mines the driver of an animal working a windlass or gin must now be at least 15 years of age instead of 14 as formerly. The Motor Vehicle Act of the Province of Quebec was amended to forbid the issuing of licenses and permits to drive motor vehicles to persons between the ages of 18 and 21, unless the written consent of the parent or guardian is obtained. The Manitoba Mines Act was amended to permit the making of regulations by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for regulating, among other things, the age and sex of persons employed in mines. The Child Welfare Act of the same province was amended to permit a children's aid society, having under its control savings from earnings belonging to a child under its care, to invest such earnings in securities in which a trustee is authorized by the Manitoba Trustee Act to invest trust funds. In British Columbia amendments were made to those sections of the Factories Act which deal with the employment of children and young girls. No child under 15 years of age may now be employed in a factory except by written permission of the inspector, who must specify the hours of employment not exceeding six per day. Formerly the employment of children was permitted in the business of fish-canning or fish-curing or in fruit-packing during the time of fish runs or in the fruit seasons. Overtime and night work of young girls between 15 and 18 years of age in the above-mentioned industries and seasons is conditional upon their written consent or that of their parents or guardians.

11.—The Co-operative Movement in Canada.

A general article on "The Co-operative Movement in Canada" appeared at pp.704-720 of the 1925 edition of the Year Book under the three sub-headings of "Consumers' Co-operation", "Co-operative Credit", and "Producers' Co-operation"¹. Because of the pressure upon space, this article is not reprinted here, but a digest of the latest available material on each of these three subdivisions of co-operation is included.

1.—Consumers' Co-operation.

The co-operative store was first introduced into Canada by miners who had had experience of co-operation in Great Britain. The first co-operative store was opened at Stellarton, N.S., in 1861, and continued to do business until 1916. Many similar ventures were afterwards commenced, but a considerable number failed through their neglect to build up an adequate reserve fund. In 1909 the Co-operative Union of Canada was formed, with six affiliated societies and 1,595 members; since October 1909 it has published a monthly, "The Canadian Co-operator", from which the following statistics showing the growth of consumers' co-operation in the societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union have been taken.² (Table 22).

¹ The article referred to above was prepared for the Year Book by Miss Margaret Mackintosh, of the Department of Labour, Ottawa. ² For details regarding the Co-operative Union of Canada and its activities, see the 1925 Year Book, pp. 703-9.