

2.—Minimum Wages.

Minimum Wage Acts for the protection of female employees are on the statute books of Manitoba, British Columbia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta, while a minimum wage law for male employees was enacted in British Columbia in 1925. These laws are administered by Minimum Wage Boards, except in Nova Scotia, where no Board has as yet been appointed. Details regarding provisions for learners and minors, regarding hours of labour, trades conferences and minimum wage boards, were given at pp. 721-724 of the 1926 Year Book, together with a table of minimum weekly wages for experienced female adults in different provinces and localities. It need only be added that in Quebec a minimum weekly wage of from \$9 to \$12 has been inaugurated in printing and book-binding establishments, while in Saskatchewan a minimum wage of \$15 has been fixed in beauty parlours and barber shops.

A statement regarding the legislation of British Columbia providing for minimum wages for male employees appeared at p. 724 of the 1926 Year Book.

3.—Wages Statistics of the Census of 1921.

At the census of June 1, 1921, statistics were secured of employees and earnings. For the purposes of the census, an "employee" was defined as "a person who works for salary or wages, whether he be the general manager of a bank, railway or manufacturing establishment, or only a day labourer". All such persons were considered for the purposes of this investigation as "wage-earners".

Other questions asked in this part of the census had to do with employment and unemployment. "Employees" were asked to state their "total earnings in the past 12 months", *i.e.*, since June 1, 1920. They were also asked whether they were out of work on June 1, 1921, and the number of weeks unemployed since June 1, 1920.

The information gained from the answers to the above questions has now been compiled for cities of 30,000 population and over, and is published in Part 2 of Vol. III of the Census of 1921, pp. xv-xxiii of the introduction to this volume supplying a valuable commentary on the information published at pp. 123-551.

Three tables based on this information have been selected for publication in the Year Book, and are accompanied by interpretative text. Table 5 gives the average wages paid in fifteen cities to male and female wage-earners in 1911 and 1921 respectively. Average wages paid to male and female wage-earners per week worked in specified occupations in the leading cities are shown in Table 6 for the census year ended May 31, 1921. Finally, numbers of wage-earners and of weeks worked, together with average wages per week worked in 1921 in the nine chief occupational groups in the fifteen leading cities, are shown in Table 7.

Wages and Wage-earners in Cities of 30,000 Population and over, 1911 and 1921.—Table 5 shows for the fifteen largest cities the number of wage-earners by sex and their average earnings for the census years 1911 and 1921, respectively. The statistics include persons working for salaries and wages, but exclude employers and those working on their own account.

There is probably a tendency for the stated earnings to be lower than those actually received, especially in the case of wage-earners paid by the day or week. It is also likely that there is considerably more accuracy in the earned incomes reported by salaried workers whose remuneration is based upon yearly or monthly rates than in the case of the wage-earners, who are generally paid by the day, the