

CHAPTER XIX.—LABOUR AND WAGES.

PART I.—LABOUR.

Section 1.—Occupations of the People.

This section, formerly appearing in the Labour and Wages chapter of the Year Book, has been transferred to the Population chapter, where a fairly extended analysis of the occupations of the people in 1921 appears for the first time at pp. 134-147.

Section 2.—The 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 grants 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 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 111).

The work of the Department was greatly increased in 1907 by the passage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 112). At present the Department is also charged with the administration of an Act passed in 1918 known as the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 57), the Government Annuities Act of 1908 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 7), the Technical Education Act, enacted in 1919 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 193), the White Phosphorus Matches Act of 1914 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 128), the Combines Investigation Act of 1923 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 26), and the Old Age Pensions Act of 1927 (R.S.C. 1927, c. 156). The scope of the Department has increased in other directions, especially in the investigation of the cost of living and in connection with the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations. Reference is made elsewhere in the present volume to the operations of the Government Annuities Act, 1908 (see p. 892), and the Technical Education Act (see p. 913), also to the proceedings which have taken place under the Combines Investigation Act, 1923 (see p. 763-764).

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.—The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, (R.S.C. 1927, c. 112), has attracted considerable favourable attention from legislators and publicists throughout the world. As enacted in 1907, it forbids strikes and 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 a lockout, a course adopted, however, only in a small