

**Subsection 2.—Provincial Labour Legislation.**

The earliest provincial labour laws were concerned with the relation of master and servant and with apprenticeship. All the provinces have statutes governing, in general, the wage contract and all had laws providing for apprenticeship. In Manitoba and Ontario the latter Acts have been repealed as obsolete. The Ontario Apprenticeship Act, 1928, is more in line with modern industrial conditions and is based on the co-operation of employers for the training of boys of 16 years or over under provincial regulation and with provincial inspection. The plan applies in the first instance to the building trades, but other trades may avail themselves of it if at least 25 employers petition to that effect.

*Trade Unions and Disputes.*—A British Columbia Act declares a trade union not to be liable for any wrongful act in connection with a strike or lockout unless the union through its officers authorized or concurred in such act. Persuasion without intimidation or the publication or communication of information concerning a dispute may not be enjoined or made a cause for damages. The Quebec Professional Syndicates Act, 1924, enables the incorporations of trade unions of 20 or more persons of whom two-thirds are British subjects, with the right to hold property, establish benefit funds, buy and sell household supplies and tools and enter into agreements with similar organizations and with employers.

In addition to early legislation concerning industrial disputes in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia, which was ineffective, there are laws in Quebec and Ontario under which disputes may be settled. The Quebec Trades Disputes Act provides mediatory services and machinery for conciliation, and the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board Act enables mediation or arbitration or the taking over by the Board of railways or public utilities under its jurisdiction in the event of any interruption to services due to industrial disputes. The Quebec Municipal Strike and Lockout Act of 1921 provides for compulsory arbitration of disputes involving 25 or more persons employed in municipal police, fire, water and garbage services, with prohibition of strike or lockout pending arbitration.

*Mining* laws provide for inspection for the protection of the labour employed. Prince Edward Island with an almost entirely agricultural population has no factory or mining legislation and the New Brunswick Mines Act does not regulate labour conditions. Coal Mines Regulation Acts in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia fix the minimum age for employment for work below ground at 16 in the case of the two first-named provinces and at 15 in British Columbia. In the two western provinces, employees above ground must be over 14, but in Nova Scotia they must be over 16. These three provinces provide for an 8-hour day for all workers below ground, and in British Columbia those employed above ground have also an 8-hour day. Employees below ground in metal mines must be over 14 years of age in British Columbia and 16 years of age in Alberta and Nova Scotia. No minimum age is fixed for workers above ground in metal mines in British Columbia. In Alberta they must be 14 and in Nova Scotia 16. The minimum ages for employment under ground in mines in other provinces are 15 in Quebec, 18 in Ontario, 14 in Saskatchewan and 12 in Yukon Territory. In Ontario, workers above ground must be 16, in Saskatchewan 14 and in Yukon 12. Quebec fixes no minimum age for such employment. Alberta requires a certain educational standard for boys under 16. In Ontario, miners below ground in those parts of the province without county organization have an 8-hour day. In Quebec and British Columbia the law limits the working hours of boys under 18 and 17 respectively. In 1927, Mani-