

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 was not within the competence of the Dominion Parliament.¹ So at the ensuing session of Parliament amendments were made to the Statute, with the object of limiting its operation to matters that are not within exclusive provincial jurisdiction. It was also provided by these amendments that the Statute should apply in the case of "any dispute which is within the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of any Province and which by the legislation of the Province is made subject to the provisions of this Act".

The Legislatures of six of the provinces, namely, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, have taken advantage of this provision and enacted enabling legislation, by which the Dominion Industrial Disputes Investigation Act becomes operative in respect of disputes of the classes named in the Dominion law and otherwise within exclusive provincial jurisdiction.

A review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from its enactment in March, 1907, to Mar. 31, 1929, shows that during the 22 years 706 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 485 boards were established. In all but 38 cases, strikes (or lockouts) were averted or ended.

Fair Wages Branch.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation of schedules of minimum wage rates, which are inserted in Dominion Government contracts and must be adhered to by contractors in the execution of such works. The number of fair wage schedules prepared, from the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolutions in 1900 up to the end of the fiscal year 1928-29, was 4,705. The number of fair wage schedules and clauses furnished during the fiscal year 1928-29 was 218.

Fair wage conditions are also inserted in contracts for the manufacture of certain classes of government supplies. Contracts for railway construction to which the Dominion Government has granted financial aid, either by way of subsidy or guarantee, are likewise subject to fair wages conditions. The policy has moreover been extended within recent years to cover contracts for works carried out by the several Harbour Commissions which have been aided by grants of public funds.

An Order in Council was passed on Dec. 3, 1929, providing for the payment of current wage rates to workmen employed in the construction, alteration, extension, maintenance and operation of works for utilization of water powers under licence from the Dominion Government. The Fair Wages Clause was also inserted in an important agreement made by the Dominion Government with one of the paper companies for the cutting of pulpwood in the province of Manitoba, under which the company agreed to pay to those employed in the industry wage rates not less than those generally accepted as current in each trade or occupation in similar industries, and to maintain conditions of labour not less favourable than those prevailing in similar industries in the district.

The Department of Labour is frequently consulted by other Departments of the Government regarding the wage rates to be observed in connection with work undertaken on the day labour plan.

Labour Gazette.—A monthly publication, known as the Labour Gazette, has been issued by the Dominion Department of Labour since its establishment in 1900.

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