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 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] At the ensuing session of Parliament amendments were therefore made to the Statute, with the object of limiting its operation to matters 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, 1931, shows that during the 24 years 752 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 509 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 fair wages conditions and 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 1930-31, was 5,598. The number of fair wage schedules and clauses furnished during the fiscal year 1930-31 was 459.

The fair wages policy of the Government of Canada was originally based on a resolution adopted by the House of Commons in 1900 and was expressed in an Order in Council adopted on June 7, 1922, and amended on April 9, 1924. As drawn up by Order in Council it was applied to contracts for building and construction operations, also to contracts for the manufacture of certain classes of Government supplies. The policy required that the current wages rates and working hours of the district should be observed in the case of all workmen employed, or if there were no current rates or hours in existence, then fair and reasonable conditions in both respects. 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

[1]See page 241 of the *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.