

Section 12.—Labour Legislation in Canada.

In the Canada Year Book for 1929 at pp. 755-762 a summary was given of Dominion and provincial labour laws in force at the end of 1928 together with a note on the division of legislative jurisdiction as between the Dominion and the provinces. Summaries of 1929 and 1930 legislation were published respectively in the 1930 Year Book at pp. 746-748, and in the 1931 Year Book at pp. 788-790.

Labour laws enacted during 1931 by the Parliament of Canada and the several provincial legislatures are contained in the Report on Labour Legislation in Canada, 1931, issued by the Dominion Department of Labour. The following is a summary of the principal changes during that year.

Dominion Labour Legislation.—The Government Employees' Compensation Act was amended to extend its benefits to all employees in the service of His Majesty except those for whom provision is made under other Statutes. The definition of compensation was amended to include any benefits, expenses or allowances that are provided for under provincial compensation Acts.

The Vocational Education Act appropriates the sum of \$750,000 per annum for a period of fifteen years from which payments may be made annually to the government of any province for the purpose of promoting and assisting vocational education. The payments are conditional upon the making of an agreement, approved by the Governor in Council, between the Minister of Labour and the Government of the province concerned, and are in proportion to population.

The Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931¹, provides for the payment out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada of such moneys as the Governor in Council may deem it expedient to expend for relieving distress, providing employment and maintaining peace, order and good government in Canada. The Governor in Council may, among other things, provide for the construction of public works and undertakings; assist in defraying the cost of production, sale and distribution of the products of field, farm, forest, sea, river and mine; assist provinces, cities, towns, municipalities and other bodies or associations by loan of money or guarantee of repayment of money.

Provincial Labour Legislation.—In Saskatchewan the Weekly Half-holiday Act, which applies to cities having a population of 7,000 and over, provides for the closing of shops at 12 o'clock noon each Wednesday from April 1 to Aug. 31. Exemption is granted to certain trades and businesses.

The Nova Scotia Minimum Wage Act was amended to enable an employee who has been paid less than the minimum wage to sue for the difference between that wage and the amount actually received and also to require employers to furnish to the Board statements of the names, ages, average hours and actual earnings of employees and any other information required.

The Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Act, which applies to cities only, was amended to enable the Board to extend its provisions to any town with a population of 1,500 or more.

The Manitoba Minimum Wage Act was amended to include boys under 18 years of age within its scope.

Professions whose members are incorporated under the laws of the province were withdrawn from the scope of the Male Minimum Wage Act of British Columbia.

¹ See also pp. 657-9.