

### Subsection 2.—Minimum Wages for Male Employees.

In Alberta, legislation of 1926, a revision of the Factories Act, provides that in establishments governed by the Act, which include shops, hotels, restaurants, and office buildings, no male may be employed at a less wage than the minimum rate for female employees in the same class of work except in the case of apprentices under indenture approved by the Commissioner of Labour, who is the Secretary of the Minimum Wage Board.

In British Columbia the orders issued under the Male Minimum Wage Act, 1925, having been declared invalid in October, 1928, by the Supreme Court of Canada (*Labour Gazette*, November, 1928, p. 1310), a new Act was enacted in the session of 1929, like the original applying to all occupations other than those of farm labourers, fruit pickers, fruit packers, fruit and vegetable canners and domestic servants.

On Jan. 22, 1930, an order effective from that date was issued providing for a minimum rate of 50 cents per hour for "stationary steam engineers" and 40 cents per hour for "special engineers" as defined under the "Boiler Inspection Act" On July 31, 1930, an order was issued effective from that date providing for a minimum rate of 80 cents per hour for licentiates in pharmacy, engaged in selling, dispensing, etc., of drugs, etc. An amendment to the Statute during 1931 excluded from its operation the professions the members of which are incorporated under provincial legislation. The above order, therefore, became null and void.

In Manitoba during 1931 an amendment to the Minimum Wage Act made all orders applicable to boys under eighteen years of age. The order regarding employment in retail stores was then amended to permit boys to work fifty hours per week instead of forty-eight hours, the maximum for female employees.

### Section 3.—Cost of Living of Wage Earners.

An index number of the cost of living in working men's families has been computed by the Department of Labour since 1913, and is published monthly in the *Labour Gazette*. This index is specifically designed for the purpose of measuring the trends of the cost of living for certain wage-earning classes with a somewhat lower standard of living than that which is measured by the Bureau of Statistics index number of retail prices, shown on pp. 689-693 of the present volume. The former wage-earner's index is used extensively in negotiations as to wage rates and in the settlement of industrial disputes. An abridgment of this index is presented in Table 4.