

The work of the Department was greatly increased in 1907 by the passage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112). At present the Department is also charged with the administration of an Act passed in 1918 known as the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 57), the Government Annuities Act of 1908 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 7), the Technical Education Act enacted in 1919 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 193), the White Phosphorus Matches Act of 1914 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 128), the Combines Investigation Act of 1923 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 26), the Old Age Pensions Act of 1927 (R.S.C., 1927, c. 156), the Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act of 1930 (20-21 Geo. V, c. 20), the Vocational Education Act, 1931 (21-22 Geo. V., c. 59), the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931 (21-22 Geo. V, c. 58), the Unemployment and Farm Relief Continuance Act, 1932 (22-23 Geo. V, c. 13) and the Relief Act, 1932 (22-23 Geo. V, c. 36). The scope of the Department has increased in other directions, especially in investigating the cost of living, and in connection with the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations. For a report of the operation of the Old Age Pensions Act, see p. 780 and for the proceedings under the Combines Investigation Act, 1923, see p. 790. For the operation of the Government Annuities Act of 1908 and the Technical Education Act, see the chapters on Insurance and Education, respectively.

**Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.**—The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112), has attracted considerable favourable attention 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.<sup>1</sup> At the ensuing session of Parliament amendments were 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 all provinces except Prince Edward Island 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, 1932, shows that during the 25 years 772 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 515 boards were established. In all but 38 cases, strikes or lockouts were averted or ended.

<sup>1</sup>See p. 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.