

Section 3.—Provincial Labour Departments and Bureaus.

The rapid industrial development at the end of the nineteenth century in Quebec and Ontario, the leading manufacturing provinces, brought with it the recognition of the need of special provincial offices to safeguard the interests of labour, with the result that the Ontario Bureau of Labour was established in 1900 and the Quebec Department of Public Works and Labour in 1905. In 1904 an Act was passed in New Brunswick providing for a Bureau of Labour, but this never became operative. Some years later, to cope with conditions created by the growth of industry in the West, Acts were passed providing for the creation of Provincial Bureaus of Labour in Manitoba (1915), in British Columbia (1917), in Saskatchewan (1920), and in Alberta (1922). A Department of Labour was established in Nova Scotia by c. 3 of the Statutes of 1932.

The Nova Scotia Department of Labour.—The Act establishing the Nova Scotia Department of Labour provides that "the Department of Labour shall take cognizance of all matters relating to labour and shall administer such affairs, matters, Acts and regulations as the Governor in Council from time to time assigns to that Department, whether or not the same have been assigned or have belonged by or under any Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia or otherwise to some other Department or to some member of the Executive Council".

The Department is in charge of a Minister of Labour, who has under him a Secretary of Labour. The latter is empowered to collect and publish information and statistics affecting labour, and to administer such Acts as may be assigned to the Department by Order in Council. At present, labour bureaus in the province and the administration of the Factories Act have been assigned by Order in Council to the Department of Labour.

The Quebec Department of Labour.—This Department was formerly known as the Department of Public Works and Labour, each division having a separate Deputy Minister, but at the session of 1931 the Legislature created each division a distinct department.

Its duties include the institution and control of inquiries into important industrial questions and those relating to manufactures, and it may collect useful facts and statistics relating thereto, to be transmitted to the Quebec Bureau of Statistics. The Department is charged with the administration of provincial Acts respecting trade disputes, factory inspection, maintenance of fair wage clauses in Provincial Government contracts, superintendence of licensed registry offices for domestic workers, inspection of boilers and foundries, prevention of fires, establishment and maintenance of provincial employment offices, the issue of educational certificates to wage-earners under 16 years of age, together with the inspection of heating installations, steam, hot-water and hot-air furnaces. The Department's functions also include the qualification of electricians and contractors in that line of business, the qualification of stationary engineers and firemen, and the inspection of boilers registered under the Interprovincial Code, together with the registering of the blue prints in connection with the construction of boilers. The Department publishes annual reports outlining the work performed.

The Department of Labour of Ontario.—The Department of Labour of Ontario was established in 1919 and placed under the direction of a Minister and a Deputy Minister of Labour. This Department had its origin in the Bureau of Industries formed in 1882 under the Department of Agriculture, to collect and