

The hours of labour shown in Table 3 are those for which the minimum rates are payable, or the maximum hours of work established by the Minimum Wage Boards or provided for under other legislation, particulars in some instances being given in the footnotes.

The information here given is intended to afford a statistical summary of the minimum wages and restricted hours of labour in the provinces and industries affected and, while some of the more significant details have been given in footnotes, it has been found impossible to include the information in such form as to indicate any more than the general conditions under these provisions.

In Alberta and British Columbia certain rates were reduced temporarily in 1932 as shown in footnotes to the table. In Alberta the rates in hotels and restaurants were reduced.

Subsection 2.—Minimum Wages for Male Employees.

In Alberta, a revision of the Factories Act in 1926 provided that in establishments governed by the Act, which include shops, hotels, restaurants, and office buildings, no male may be employed at a lower wage than the minimum rate for female employees in the same class of work except 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, applying like the original 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"

In Manitoba an amendment, in 1931, to the Minimum Wage Act, made all orders applicable to boys under 18 years of age. The order regarding employment in retail stores was then amended to permit boys to work 50 hours per week instead of 48 hours, the maximum for female employees. In 1932 a special Regulation regarding employment of boys under 18 years of age was made, providing for a minimum of \$8 per week for the first six months, \$9 for the next six months, and \$10 thereafter, with a maximum of nine hours work per day and 48 per week in manufacturing establishments, and garages and filling stations in Winnipeg and vicinity.

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