

(21-22 Geo. V, c. 58), the Unemployment and Farm Relief Continuance Act, 1932 (22-23 Geo. V, c. 13), the Relief Act, 1932 (22-23 Geo. V, c. 36), the Relief Act, 1933 (23-24 Geo. V, c. 18), and the Relief Act, 1934 (24-25 Geo. V, c. 15). 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. 837 and for the proceedings under the Combines Investigation Act, 1923, see p. 850. 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 mines and certain public utility industries 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. Should either of the parties fail to nominate a board member, the Minister may appoint a fit person on its behalf. After the board has made its report, 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.* 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, 1934, shows that, during the 27 years, 802 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 536 boards were established. In all but 38 cases, strikes or lockouts were averted or ended.

Fair Wages Branch.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation of fair wages conditions and schedules of minimum wage rates, which are inserted in Dominion Government contracts and must be adhered to by contractors in the execution of such works. The number of fair wages schedules prepared, from the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolutions in 1900 up to the end of the fiscal year 1933-34 was 6,131. The number of fair wages schedules and clauses furnished during the fiscal year 1933-34 was 123.

*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.