

The fair wages policy of the Government of Canada was originally based on a resolution adopted by the House of Commons in 1900 and expressed in an Order in Council adopted on June 7, 1922, and amended on April 9, 1924. As drawn up by Order in Council it was applied to contracts for building and construction operations, also to contracts for the manufacture of certain classes of Government supplies. The policy required that the current wage rates and working hours of the district should be observed in the case of all workmen employed, or if there were no current rates or hours in existence, then fair and reasonable conditions in both respects. Contracts for railway construction to which the Dominion Government has granted financial aid, either by way of subsidy or guarantee, are likewise subject to fair wages conditions. The policy has, moreover, been extended within recent years to cover contracts for works carried out by the several Harbour Commissions and aided by grants of public funds.

On May 30, 1930, an Act of Parliament was adopted, known as the Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, 1930, which provides for the payment of current wage rates to all persons employed on contracts made with the Government of Canada for works of construction, remodelling, repair or demolition, provided that the wages in all cases shall be fair and reasonable. This statute also directed that the working hours of persons while so employed shall not exceed eight hours a day. It was further declared that the foregoing conditions are to be applied to all workmen employed by the Government itself on the construction, remodelling, repair or demolition of any work.

On Mar. 27, 1930, an Order in Council was passed providing that, except in cases where the work of employees was intermittent in character, or the application of the rule was not deemed to be practicable, or in the public interest, the hours of work of any Dominion Government employees who had up to that time been required to work more than eight hours daily should be reduced to eight hours a day, with a half holiday on Saturday.

An Order in Council was adopted on Dec. 31, 1934, rescinding the labour conditions previously applied to contracts for the manufacture of various classes of Government supplies, and substituting other conditions therefor. The provision for the payment of wages not less than current rates, or fair and reasonable rates if there are no current rates, is retained in the new conditions, but with the added proviso that in no event shall the wage rate for male workers 18 years of age and over be less than 30 cents an hour, and for female workers 18 years of age and over, 20 cents an hour. It is also declared that males and females under 18 years of age shall be entitled to rates of wages not less than those provided for women and girls in the minimum wage scales of the respective provinces, and that, in any cases where the provincial minimum wage laws require the payment of higher wages than those set out above, such higher rates shall apply in the execution of Dominion contract work.

The Department of Labour is frequently consulted by other Departments of the Government regarding the wage rates to be observed in connection with work undertaken on the day-labour plan.

Labour Gazette.—A monthly publication, known as the *Labour Gazette*, has been issued by the Dominion Department of Labour since its establishment in 1900. It contains a monthly review of the industrial situation in Canada and of the state of employment, including reports of the operations of the Employment Service of Canada in the various provinces, also information relative to: labour