

Section 12.—Labour Legislation in Canada in 1933 and 1934.

A summary of labour legislation in force in Canada on Dec. 31, 1928, was given in the Canada Year Book for 1929 at pp. 755-762. The Year Book for each subsequent year contained a summary of the labour laws enacted in the previous year. Labour laws enacted in Canada in 1933 and 1934 are published in the Reports on Labour Legislation in Canada for those years issued by the Department of Labour. A summary of the principal enactments is given below.

Dominion Labour Legislation.—The Relief Act, 1933, empowered the Governor General in Council to enter into agreements with the provinces respecting relief measures; to make loans to, and guarantee payment of money by provinces or public corporations and undertakings; when Parliament is not in session to take the necessary measures to maintain peace, order, and good government and to maintain the credit and financial position of the Dominion or of any province. In particular, the Governor in Council might provide for special relief in the National Parks and elsewhere and assist financially in the sale of primary products. The amount payable for direct relief was limited to \$20,000,000 for the year ending Mar. 31, 1934. The Relief Act, 1934, was generally similar to the 1933 Statute but did not provide for defraying the cost of the distribution of natural products. Provision was also made for the payment of the Dominion's proportion of any direct relief accounts in excess of the aforementioned \$20,000,000 received subsequent to the expiration of the Act of 1933 on Mar. 31, 1934, and up to July, 1935.

In 1934, Parliament revised the law relating to shipping. The new Canada Shipping Act, which will come into force on Proclamation, incorporates numerous sections of the old Act, the Merchant Shipping Act of the United Kingdom and the Safety of Life at Sea and Load Line Conventions Act, 1931. Sections added to the Canada Shipping Act to put into effect draft conventions of the International Labour Conference have also been included. Among these were sections added in 1933 to implement the draft conventions regarding the protection of workers loading and unloading ships and the marking of the weight on heavy packages. These sections had not been put in force. The draft conventions covering Seamen's Articles of Agreement and the Repatriation of Seamen have been enacted for the first time.

The Technical Education Act, 1934, extends for five years the time within which the unexpended portion of the ten million dollars appropriated under the Act of 1919 may remain available for those provinces which have not yet used up their share of the money.

An amendment to the Criminal Code amends the law on picketing by providing that attending at or near any premises in order merely to obtain or communicate information, shall not be deemed to be watching or besetting within the meaning of the section. This clause was enacted in Canada in 1876, but was omitted from the Criminal Code in 1892.

Provincial Labour Legislation.—Provision for the protection of miners in New Brunswick was made for the first time in 1933 by an amendment to the Mining Act which establishes an eight-hour day for underground workmen and forbids the employment of boys under 16 below ground. A person in charge of a working face must be at least 18 years of age and must have a miner's certificate. Inspection is provided for and regulations may be made for the safety of persons employed.