

A new Male Minimum Wage Act was passed in British Columbia in 1934 to apply to adult male employees in any industry or occupation except farm labourers and domestic servants. The Act, which provides for a Board of Industrial Relations, is drafted along the lines of the Women's Minimum Wage Acts of the various provinces and empowers the Board to fix minimum wages, with special provision for certain classes of employees, such as young or handicapped workers.

A new British Columbia Female Minimum Wage Act replaces the Act of 1918 and is administered by the Board of Industrial Relations. A new clause stipulates that, where a minimum wage has been fixed for female employees, no person may employ, on work usually done by such employees, any male person over 18 years of age at a wage less than the fixed minimum, except male apprentices whose indentures have been approved by the Board; nor may boys under 18 be employed at such work at less wages.

The Women's Minimum Wage Act of Quebec was amended in 1933 to provide that employers might be required by Order in Council to keep registers of the names, ages and places of residence of their female employees and information as to their wages and working hours. An Order in Council of this sort was issued during the year. In 1934, the Act was amended to prohibit any male worker being employed on work ordinarily performed by women at a less wage than that fixed for the female employees.

The Ontario Minimum Wage Act was amended in 1934 to provide that where a minimum wage is established, the number of hours per week for which such wage is paid may not exceed 48 in municipalities with a population of over 50,000 or 50 in municipalities of from 10,000 to 50,000, or 54 in other municipalities. If the prevailing weekly hours in any industry or employment are less than the above hours, the former are to be considered the maximum for which the minimum wage shall be paid. Where a male employee replaces a female at any class of work for which a minimum wage is established, he must be paid not less than the minimum.

A 1933 amendment to the Manitoba Minimum Wage Act forbids any person over 18 years of age being employed in any class of employment at a lower rate than the minimum, if any, established for boys under 18. In 1934 the Act was amended to include male employees as well as women and boys. The Act or regulations may be extended by Order in Council to industries not expressly provided for by the Act. Where the regulations fix a minimum wage in any class of industry, no person of 18 years or over may be employed at less than 25 cents per hour unless the Minimum Wage Board has provided for a different rate.

In 1934, the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Act was amended to provide that, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the Minimum Wage Board may apply the Act to male employees in any shop or factory which the Act covers.

In 1934, laws were enacted in Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario to regulate labour conditions in the lumbering industry. The New Brunswick Forest Operations Commission Act provides for a commission with power to fix minimum wages yearly and on the application of an employer or of not less than five employees to hear disputes as to wages and board, store charges and living conditions in the lumber camps. Recommendations of the Commission, if approved by the Minister, must be carried out by the parties to the dispute, failure to do so constituting an offence against the Act.