

and investigation, as a result of which 538 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 for works of construction, remodelling, repair or demolition. The number of fair wages schedules so prepared, from the adoption of the Fair Wages Policy in 1900 up to the end of the fiscal year 1934-35, was 6,505. The number of fair wages schedules furnished during the fiscal year 1934-35 was 374.

The Department of Labour also co-operates closely with other Departments of the Dominion Government in ensuring the observance of fair wages conditions inserted in contracts for the manufacture of various classes of equipment and supplies for Government use.

The Department is frequently consulted by other Departments of the Government regarding the prevailing rates of wages to be observed on works which are undertaken on the day-labour plan.

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, amended on April 9, 1924, and again on Dec. 31, 1934. As drawn up by Order in Council certain specified conditions were designated as being applicable to contracts for building and construction operations, and other conditions as being applicable in the case of contracts for the manufacture of certain classes of government equipment and 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.

The Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, 1930, was superseded, however, by the coming into force on May 1, 1936, of The Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, which was adopted by Parliament on June 28, 1935. This latter statute re-enacts a number of the sections of the former, and adds new provisions to comply as far as possible with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Price Spreads. Like its predecessor, the Act makes provision for "fair wages" and an eight-hour day on Government construction works, but also provides for a forty-four hour week on such works and extends the Dominion Government's policy of fair wages and an eight-hour day to works carried out by any provincial or municipal authority to which financial aid is given by the Dominion, as well as other works aided by the Government of Canada.