

The Department, since the 1934 Session, is charged with the enforcement of the Collective Labour Agreements Extension Act; however, it has not the duty of leading employers and employees into the preparation of agreements. When a Collective Labour Agreement has been passed and adopted by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a Joint Committee is formed to supervise the enforcement of the Order in Council; the Joint Committee, under the authority of the Act, may adopt regulations for its own administration, render obligatory the certificate of competency in a given trade in cities of more than 10,000 souls and collect an assessment not exceeding one-half of one p.c. on the payrolls of employers and on the wages of employees for the purposes of the putting into force of the Order in Council. During the fiscal year 1934-35, 43 collective labour agreements were enforced in the province in various industries.

The Department has jurisdiction over the limitation of hours of work; since the coming into force of the Act giving it such authority, hours of labour, in the building trades, have been limited to forty per week throughout the province.

The Department also issues qualification certificates to workmen charged with the use and handling of explosives, and is responsible for the enforcement of the Scaffolding Inspection Act in towns where there is no municipal service providing for such duties.

The Department of Labour of Ontario.—The Department of Labour of Ontario was established in 1919 and placed under the direction of a Minister and a Deputy Minister of Labour. This Department had its origin in the Bureau of Industries formed in 1882 under the Department of Agriculture, to collect and publish statistics relating to the industries of the province and (later) to administer the first Factory Act of 1886. In 1900 a Bureau of Labour, attached to the Department of Public Works, was authorized to collect and publish information relating to employment, wages and hours, strikes, labour organizations and general conditions of labour. Several investigations were made regarding such matters and the first free employment offices were opened by the Bureau of Labour. In 1916 this Bureau was in turn superseded by the Trades and Labour Branch, also under the Ministry of Public Works but administered by a Superintendent. The establishment of the Branch had been recommended by the Ontario Commission on Unemployment and the expansion of the work undertaken by the Branch, and the increase in the demands made upon its resources led to the creation of a special Department of the Government by the Department of Labour Act, 1919.

The Department of Labour administers the following Acts: the Department of Labour Act; the Factory, Shop and Office Building Act; the Steam Boiler Act; the Operating Engineers Act; the Building Trades Protection Act; the Employment Agencies Act; the Apprenticeship Act; the Regulations respecting the Protection of Persons working in Compressed Air; the Regulations respecting the Protection of Persons working in Tunnels and Open Caissons; the Minimum Wage Act; the Industrial Standards Act. Under the Industrial Standards Act standard wages and hours of labour are being established through agreements between employers and employees. These agreements, when approved by Order in Council, become binding upon all persons engaged or employed in the industry and in the zone to which the agreement applies. The Department is required to maintain employment offices, to collect information respecting employment, sanitary and other conditions in work places, wages and hours of work, and to study labour legislation in other parts of the British Empire and in foreign countries, as well as any suggested changes in the labour laws of Ontario. The representatives