

Section 12.—Labour Legislation in Canada in 1935.

The Canada Year Book for 1929 contains, at pp. 755-762, a summary of the labour legislation in force in Canada at the end of the year 1928, and each subsequent Year Book gives a summary of the labour laws passed during the preceding year. Labour laws enacted during 1935 are published in the Report on Labour Legislation in Canada, 1935, issued by the Department of Labour. The following is a *résumé* of the principal enactments.

Dominion Labour Legislation.—Legislation was enacted to implement certain draft conventions of the International Labour Conference which had been formally ratified by the Government on Mar. 21 and April 25, respectively. These laws included the Draft Conventions on the eight-hour day and weekly rest in industrial undertakings and on minimum wage-fixing machinery. Following the change of government in October, 1935, these three statutes, together with the Employment and Social Insurance Act, were referred to the Supreme Court of Canada for a determination as to whether they are *intra vires* of the Dominion Parliament.

The Employment and Social Insurance Act provides for compulsory insurance against unemployment. The scheme covers persons 16 years of age and upwards employed under contract of service or apprenticeship, with certain exceptions, chief of which are: persons employed in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fishing, lumbering, logging, transportation, stevedoring, private domestic service, and employment otherwise than by way of manual labour at a remuneration exceeding \$2,000 a year. The Unemployment Insurance Fund is to be made up of contributions from insured persons and their employers, together with a grant from the Dominion Government which also bears the cost of administration. Contributions payable in respect of adult workers are 25c. per week from men and 21c. per week from women, with like amounts from the employer. Lower rates are fixed for persons between the ages of 16 and 21 years. The main qualification for benefit is the payment of 40 weekly contributions during the two years preceding the claim. The weekly benefit is \$6 for men and \$5.10 for women, with proportionately lower rates for young persons between 16 and 21. Benefit in respect of dependants is payable at the rate of \$2.70 per week for adults and 90c. per week for children. Total benefit, including dependants' benefit, may not exceed 80 p.c. of the wages formerly received by the unemployed person. Benefit is payable for not more than an aggregate of 78 days of continuous unemployment in any benefit year. Additional benefit is, however, granted to persons with good employment records on conditions laid down in the Act. The scheme is to be administered by an Employment and Social Insurance Commission of three members, of whom two are required to be appointed after consultation with employers' and workers' organizations respectively. The Commission, which was appointed in July, 1935, is to be assisted by an Advisory Committee of not less than four or more than six members representing equally employers and workers. The Commission is to organize and maintain an Employment Service, and the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act, 1918, may be repealed by Order in Council. The Commission is further required to investigate and report upon schemes of health insurance and medical aid.

The Relief Act, 1935, which is to continue in force for one year, is generally similar to the Relief Act, 1934, and authorizes the Dominion Government to make agreements with the provinces respecting relief measures; to make loans to provinces and to Canadian Co-operative Wheat Producers, Ltd.; to take steps to protect the financial position of the Dominion or of any province; and, when Parliament