

by the Dominion Government in 1900 up to the end of the fiscal year 1935-36 was 7,005. The number of fair wages schedules furnished during the fiscal year 1935-36 was 500.

The Department of Labour also co-operates closely with other Departments of the 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, and is frequently consulted by other Departments regarding the prevailing rates of wages to be observed on works carried out by day labour.

The Fair Wages Policy of the Government of Canada was originally based on a resolution adopted by the House of Commons in 1900. It was later expressed in an Order in Council adopted on June 7, 1922, amended on April 9, 1924, and again on Dec. 31, 1934. Under these Orders 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 should be observed 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 by the National Harbours Board which replaced them during the year.

On May 30, 1930, an Act of Parliament was adopted known as the Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, 1930, providing 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 should be fair and reasonable. This statute also directed that the working hours of persons while so employed should not exceed eight hours a day. It was further declared that the foregoing conditions were 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The Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, 1930, was superseded, however, on May 1, 1936, by the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, which was adopted by Parliament on June 28, 1935.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 Act and adds new provisions to comply 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 contracts for works of construction, remodelling, repair or demolition, imposing however, a limit of forty-four hours a week on such works and extending the Dominion Government's policy of fair wages and an eight-hour day to works carried out by any provincial or municipal authority with the aid of Dominion Government funds, as well as to other works aided by the Government of Canada.

The Act sets out that the term "fair wages" means such wages as are generally accepted as current for competent workmen in the district in which the work is being performed for the character or class of work in which such workmen are respectively engaged; but shall in all cases be such wages as are fair and reasonable.

The benefits of the Fair Wages Policy apply also to workmen employed by Government Departments on a day labour basis in building and construction works.