

except Prince Edward Island took advantage of this provision and enacted enabling legislation by which the Dominion Industrial Disputes Investigation Act became operative in respect of disputes of the classes named in the Dominion law and otherwise within exclusive provincial jurisdiction. In December, 1937, however, a statute entitled the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was passed by the British Columbia Legislature providing provincial machinery for dealing with industrial disputes within the legislative jurisdiction of the province and repealing the Industrial Disputes Investigation (British Columbia) Act.

A review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from its enactment in March, 1907, to Mar. 31, 1938, shows that, during the 31 years, 895 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 574 boards were established. In all but 39 cases, strikes or lockouts were averted or ended.

Fair Wages Policy.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation and enforcement of the labour 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 prepared, from the time the Fair Wages Policy was adopted by the Dominion Government in 1900 up to the end of the fiscal year 1937-38, was 8,220. The number of fair wages schedules furnished during the fiscal year 1937-38 was 703.

The Department of Labour also co-operates closely with other departments of the Government in ensuring the observance of the 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 Apr. 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, that 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.

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.