

The Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, 1930, was superseded, however, on May 1, 1936, by the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, which was adopted by Parliament on June 28, 1935.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.

On Mar. 27, 1930, an Order in Council was passed providing that, except in cases where the work of employees was intermittent in character, or the application of the rule was not deemed to be practicable, or in the public interest, the hours of work of any Dominion Government employees who had up to that time been required to work more than eight hours daily should be reduced to eight hours a day, with a half-holiday on Saturdays.

An Order in Council was adopted on Dec. 31, 1934, rescinding the labour conditions previously applied to contracts for the manufacture of various classes of Government supplies, and substituting other conditions therefor. The provision for the payment of wages not less than current rates, or fair and reasonable rates if there are no current rates, is retained in the new conditions, but with the added proviso that in no event shall the wage rate for male workers 18 years of age or over be less than 30 cents an hour, and for female workers 18 years of age or over, 20 cents an hour. It is also declared that males and females under 18 years of age shall be entitled to rates of wages not less than those provided for women and girls in the minimum wage scales of the respective provinces, and that, in any cases where the provincial minimum wage laws require the payment of higher wages than those set out above, such higher rates shall apply in the execution of Dominion contract work.

Owing to the large and increasing number of contracts which are being placed by the Dominion Government for the manufacture and overhaul of aircraft, for the manufacture of munitions, and for the construction and repair of boats of various types, it is now the policy of the Government to insert in such contracts schedules which have been drawn up in consultation between the Department of Labour and the other Government departments concerned, setting forth the minimum rates of wages and the maximum hours to be observed in the execution of the respective undertakings throughout the country. The Department of Labour co-operates closely with the Government departments concerned in ensuring that the contract conditions are strictly enforced.

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