

The Nova Scotia Department of Labour.—The Act establishing the Nova Scotia Department of Labour provides that: the Department of Labour shall take cognizance of all matters relating to labour, and shall administer such affairs, matters, Acts and regulations as the Governor in Council from time to time assigns to that Department, whether or not they have been assigned or have belonged, by or under any Act of the Legislature of Nova Scotia or otherwise, to some other department or to some member of the Executive Council.

The Department is in charge of a Minister of Labour, who has under him a Deputy Minister of Labour. The latter is empowered to collect and publish information and statistics affecting labour, and to administer such Acts as may be assigned to the Department by Order in Council. At present, labour bureaus in the province, the administration of the Factories Act, Minimum Wage Board, Limitation of Hours Board, Industrial Standards Act, Trade Union Act as affects check-off, and unemployment relief have been assigned by Order in Council to the Department of Labour.

The Quebec Department of Labour.—This Department was formerly known as the Department of Public Works and Labour, each division having a separate Deputy Minister, but in 1931 each division was recognized as a distinct department.

The duties of the Department of Labour include the institution and control of inquiries into important industrial questions and it may collect useful facts and statistics relating thereto, to be transmitted to the Quebec Bureau of Statistics. The Department is charged with the administration of provincial Acts respecting industrial and commercial establishments, trade disputes, and the maintenance of fair wages clauses in Provincial Government contracts. The Quebec Workmen's Compensation Commission is under its jurisdiction, together with the Provincial Employment Service.

The Department is responsible for the licensing and qualification of electricians, moving-picture machine operators, stationary and portable machine enginemen, and pipe mechanics; it is also charged with the inspection of electrical installations, heating installations, steam, hot-water and hot-air furnaces, boilers registered under the Interprovincial Code, together with the registering of blue-prints in connection with the construction of boilers. A special branch of the Department is entrusted with the inspection of public buildings and the approval of the plans of new buildings.

The Department, since the 1934 session, was charged with the enforcement of the Collective Labour Agreements Act which has been considerably modified during subsequent sessions. It is not the duty of the Government to lead employers and employees into the preparation of agreements, but when a collective labour agreement has been passed and adopted by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, a joint committee, being and having the rights of an independent corporation, is formed to supervise the enforcement of the decree. 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 5,000 population, and collect an assessment, not exceeding one-half of one per cent, on the payrolls of employers and on the wages of employees for the purposes of the putting into force of the decree. During the fiscal year 1937-38, 74 decrees were in force in the province in various industries.