

# CHAPTER XIX.—LABOUR AND WAGES.\*

## CONSPECTUS.

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### Section 1.—The Government in Relation to Labour.

#### Subsection 1.—The Dominion Department of Labour.

The Department of Labour of the Dominion Government was established in 1900 under the authority of the Conciliation Act. At the outset its chief duties comprised the administration of certain provisions of this statute that were designed to aid in the prevention and settlement of labour disputes, the administration of the Government's fair wages policy for the protection of workmen employed on Dominion Government contracts and on works aided by grants of public funds, the collection and classification of statistical and other information relative to conditions of labour, and the publication of a monthly periodical known as the *Labour Gazette*. From 1900 to 1909 the Department was administered by the Postmaster General, who was also Minister of Labour. It was constituted a separate Department under the Labour Department Act, 1909.

The work of the Department was greatly increased in 1907 by the passing of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. At present the Department is also charged with the administration of the Government Annuities Act of 1908, the White Phosphorous Matches Act of 1914, the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act of 1918, the Technical Education Act of 1919, the Combines Investigation Act of 1923 as amended in 1935 and 1937, the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act of 1935, the Dominion relief legislation and the Youth Training Act, 1939, and with the work arising out of Canada's relations with the International Labour Organization. In addition, there has been a considerable extension of departmental activity in the collection and publication of information concerning labour organizations, wages and hours of labour, prices and the cost of living, strikes and lockouts, industrial

\* Except as otherwise indicated, the material in this chapter has been prepared or revised under the direction of W. M. Dickson, Deputy Minister, Department of Labour, Ottawa.