

agreements, industrial accidents, labour legislation, and related subjects. For information regarding government annuities and technical education, see the chapters on Insurance and Education, respectively.

Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.—The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112) has attracted considerable favourable attention from legislators and publicists throughout the world. As enacted in 1907, it forbids strikes and lockouts in mines and certain public utility industries until the matters in dispute have been dealt with by a board of conciliation and investigation consisting of three members, two appointed by the Minister of Labour on the recommendation of the respective parties to the dispute, the third on the recommendation of the first two, or, if they fail to agree, by the Minister himself. Should either of the parties fail to nominate a board member, the Minister may appoint a fit person on its behalf. After such a board has made its report, either of the parties to the dispute may reject its findings and declare a strike or a lockout, a course that has been adopted, however, only in a small percentage of cases. With the consent of the parties concerned, the machinery of the Act may be utilized in connection with disputes in other industries.

In January, 1925, a judgment was rendered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council declaring that the Act as it stood was not within the competence of the Dominion Parliament.* At the ensuing session of Parliament amendments were made to the statute with the object of limiting its operation to matters not within exclusive provincial jurisdiction except when a province has passed legislation permitting the Dominion legislation to apply. The legislatures of all provinces except Prince Edward Island have taken advantage of this provision and enacted such enabling legislation. 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.

Under the provisions of the War Measures Act, an Order in Council was passed on Nov. 7, 1939, extending the scope of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act to cover disputes between employers and employees engaged in war work. This work is defined as including the construction, execution, production, repair, manufacture, transportation, storage, or delivery of munitions of war or supplies, and also the construction, remodelling, repair, or demolition of defence projects.

A review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from its enactment in March, 1907, to Mar. 31, 1940, shows that, during the 33 years, 978 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 594 boards were established. In all but 41 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 that 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 1938-39, was 8,895. The number of fair wages schedules furnished during the fiscal year 1938-39 was 675.

* See p. 241 of the *Labour Gazette* for February, 1925, for text of judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in regard to the validity of this statute.