

Section 9.—The Regulation of Minimum Wage Rates in Canada.

The regulation of minimum wages is under provincial jurisdiction. All of the provinces except Prince Edward Island have legislation in effect providing for the establishment of minimum wage rates for female employees in certain industries and occupations through boards authorized to establish and enforce these minimum rates. Such legislation was enacted between 1918 and 1920 in all of these provinces except New Brunswick. In Nova Scotia the legislation is applicable to female workers only, but in the other provinces it now applies both to male and female workers. There is also legislation for the restriction of hours of labour which are regulated in some of the provinces by the minimum wage boards but in the others only under the factory Acts, etc. So far as such legislation has been enacted it is covered in the sections on labour legislation occurring in this and earlier editions of the Year Book (see Index).

In British Columbia since 1925, and in Manitoba since 1931, separate orders have been effective for some classes of male workers and their scope was much extended in 1934 and subsequent years. In New Brunswick, the Labour and Industrial Relations Act, 1937, which reproduces the provisions of the Fair Wage Act, 1936, provides for the establishment of minimum wage rates but no orders of general application had been issued by the end of 1939. In Saskatchewan since 1936, and in Quebec since 1937, all minimum wage orders for females apply also to male workers. In Alberta, separate orders for male workers were issued in 1937 for the first time. In Ontario, under the Minimum Wage Act, 1937, the legislation was extended to male workers but only one order for males had been made effective by the end of 1939, namely, that relating to the textile industry. In Quebec and New Brunswick, wages in logging are regulated under forestry regulation acts.

In Quebec, since 1934, certain wage rates established through collective agreements have been made binding on industries in certain districts or throughout the Province, under the Collective Labour Agreements Extension Act, 1934, and later under the Workmen's Wages Act, 1937, and the Collective Labour Agreements Act, 1938. The Industrial Standards Acts of Ontario and Alberta in 1935, that of Nova Scotia in 1936, and of Saskatchewan in 1937 provided for joint conferences of employers and employees for the establishment of wage scales in various industries in the districts concerned.

Information as to minimum wage rates for work under Dominion Government contracts for the manufacture and supply of equipment, stores, clothing, etc., appears in the paragraphs on Fair Wages in the section on the Dominion Department of Labour at pp. 744-745.

Subsection 1.—Minimum Wages for Females.

The table on pp. 790-791 gives information as to minimum rates of wages and as to hours for which these rates are payable under the orders of the various provincial boards and commissions in effect at the end of 1939.

The information here given is intended to afford merely a statistical summary of the minimum wages with hours of labour in the provinces and industries affected, and, while some of the more significant details have been given in footnotes, it has