

collection and publication of information concerning labour organizations, wages and hours of labour, prices and the cost of living, strikes and lockouts, industrial agreements, industrial accidents, labour legislation, and related subjects. For information regarding Government annuities, technical education and combines investigation, see the chapters on Insurance, Education and Internal Trade, respectively, or the Index to this volume.

**Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.**—Enacted in 1907, the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112) is designed to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts. The statute, which forbids such stoppages of work until the matters in dispute have been dealt with by a board of conciliation and investigation, normally applies to disputes in mines and certain public utility industries. On Nov. 7, 1939, however, under the provisions of the War Measures Act, the scope of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was, by Order in Council P.C. 3495, extended to cover disputes between employers and employees engaged in work on munitions of war or supplies and on defence projects. With a view to the clarification of the meaning of the term "supplies", it has since been stipulated (Order in Council P.C. 1708, dated Mar. 10, 1941) that certain commodities, even though they are not specifically required for the use of the armed forces, may in the opinion of the Minister of Labour be "essential for the needs of the Government or of the community in war". Under this authority the gold-mining industry and the pulp and paper industry have both been declared essential war industries in view of the large amounts of American exchange that they make available for the purchase of war supplies in the United States. The ruling on gold mining was necessary because the repeal, in 1937, of the British Columbia enabling legislation had removed the industry in that Province from the coverage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.

For the purpose of establishing a uniform war-time wages policy for the guidance of boards of conciliation and investigation, it has been provided (Order in Council P.C. 7440, dated Dec. 16, 1940) that the highest wage rates generally prevailing and normally established for the different occupations in any given establishment during the period 1926-29 or any higher rates established thereafter, but before Dec. 16, 1940, shall be accepted as fair and reasonable, and that such wage rates may be supplemented by a separate bonus as the cost of living rises. If, however, it is shown that the aforementioned highest wage rates were unduly depressed or enhanced, a board may recommend an increase or a decrease, respectively, to a level that it considers fair and reasonable. The Order in Council also provides that all wage agreements negotiated during the war period in industries coming within the scope of the statute (including war industries) shall conform to the aforementioned policy.

A board of conciliation and investigation consists 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 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 statute may be utilized in connection with disputes in industries outside its scope.