

Employees of Government railways are covered by the Dominion Act, but permanent members of His Majesty's forces are provided for by the Pensions Act.

*Scope of the Acts.*—The Acts vary in scope but, in general, they cover construction, mining, manufacturing, lumbering, fishing, transportation and communications and the operation of public utilities; undertakings in which not more than a stated number of workmen are usually employed may be excluded, except in British Columbia and Alberta. Except to a limited extent in Alberta, the Acts do not apply to farming or to domestic service. However, in some cases, persons in these classes may be included upon application by employers or employees. In each province a Board has been established to administer the Act. These Boards have power to rate industries according to hazard and to levy on the employers in each class or group an assessment sufficient to meet the liability of the class for the accidents in their industries, but the Accident Funds built up from these contributions are one and indivisible. This compulsory State system of collective liability replaced one of individual liability but individual liability Acts still cover certain classes of railway employees in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Nova Scotia requires persons employing men in fishing and dredging to carry insurance. In Ontario and Quebec, public authorities, railway and shipping companies, and telephone and telegraph companies are individually liable for compensation, as determined by the Board, and pay a proportion of the expenses of administration.

*Medical Aid.*—Necessary medical aid is given to workmen during disability, except in Nova Scotia where it is provided for thirty days only unless the Board extends this period. In Alberta and British Columbia, workmen contribute to the cost of medical aid; elsewhere it is borne by the Accident Funds. Where the employer is individually liable for compensation under the Act, he must also furnish medical aid.

In all provinces certain industrial diseases entitle a workman to compensation. The diseases for which compensation is payable are set out in a schedule to the Acts except in New Brunswick where they are in regulations but in each province the Board has power to add to the list. Compensation is payable in all provinces for anthrax and for poisoning from arsenic, lead, mercury and phosphorus. In all, except New Brunswick, silicosis is compensated under certain conditions. The other diseases compensated vary according to the industries of the provinces.

*Safety Regulations.*—Except in Manitoba, where accident prevention work is under the Bureau of Labour, the Workmen's Compensation Boards have power to inspect the premises of employers and to see whether precautions are being taken for prevention of accidents. In Alberta and British Columbia, the Boards may make safety regulations; in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan, associations of employers organized for accident prevention may be granted financial assistance by the Boards and their safety rules made binding on employers. In every province the Boards lay down regulations as to first-aid equipment to be maintained.

*Benefits.*—Under each Act, a fixed period must elapse between the date of the accident and the date when compensation begins but in all the provinces medical aid is given from the date of the accident. This waiting period varies from three to seven days and in some provinces compensation is paid for the waiting period if disability continues beyond it.