

of information concerning labour organization, wages and hours of labour, prices and the cost of living, strikes and lockouts, industrial agreements, industrial accidents, labour legislation and related subjects.

In carrying out its function of disseminating information the Department has published the *Labour Gazette*\* monthly since 1900. This publication maintains a continuous record of the work of the Department in administering the above legislation, the activities of trade unions and employers' organizations, and the general labour situation in Canada and elsewhere as reflected in employment conditions, trends of prices and the cost of living, labour disputes, industrial accidents, etc. Since 1921, an annual report on "Wages and Hours of Labour in Canada" has been published as a supplement to the *Labour Gazette*.

Provincial legislation and regulations thereunder, as well as the more important legal decisions involving labour questions, are also summarized currently in the *Labour Gazette*. In addition the Department has published annually since 1915 reports on "Labour Legislation in Canada".† The first report was a consolidation of all legislation on the statute books at the end of 1915, and similar consolidations were issued in 1920, 1928 and 1937. The Department has also issued since 1910 an annual report on "Labour Organization in Canada".‡

**The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.**—Enacted in 1907, the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 112, as amended by 1941, c. 20) is designed to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts. The statute, which forbids any such stoppage 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. At the beginning of the present war, however, under the authority of the War Measures Act (P.C. 3495, as amended by P.C. 1708) the scope of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was extended to cover disputes between employers and employees engaged in work on munitions, war supplies and defence projects. With the consent of the parties concerned, the machinery of the statute may also be utilized in connection with disputes in other industries.

The extension of the statute to cover disputes in war industries resulted in a marked increase in the number of applications for boards of conciliation and investigation and it was considered that a number of these dealt with disputes that might be settled more promptly and less expensively than by recourse to the more formal procedure before a board. Accordingly, provision was made in 1941, under the authority of the War Measures Act (P.C. 4020, as amended by P.C. 4844 and P.C. 7068), for the appointment of industrial disputes inquiry commissions, consisting of one or more members, to make preliminary inquiry into such disputes. Should a commission be unable to effect an adjustment, it must report to the Minister on the matters at issue and advise him whether the circumstances warrant the establishment of a board of conciliation and investigation.

A board consists of three members, two appointed by the Minister on the nomination of the respective parties to the dispute, and the third on the recommendation of the first two or, if they fail to agree, by the Minister himself. After a board has made its report, either of the parties may reject its recommendations

\* The subscription rate is 20 cents per annum in Canada, the United States of America and Mexico, and \$1 per annum elsewhere.

† Obtainable from the King's Printer, Ottawa, \$1 per copy for consolidations, 25 cents per copy for other volumes.

‡ Obtainable from the King's Printer, Ottawa, 50 cents per copy.