

Subsection 2.—Workmen's Compensation*

In all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island, legislation is in force providing for compensation for personal injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, or by a specified industrial disease, except where the workman is disabled for less than a stated number of days. To ensure payment of such compensation, each Act provides for an accident fund, administered by a provincial board, to which employers are required to contribute at a rate determined by the board, in accordance with the hazards of the industry. A workman to whom these provisions apply has no right of action against his employer for injury from an accident during employment. There is also a Dominion Act that provides for compensation for accidents to Dominion Government employees according to the conditions laid down by the Act of the province in which the accident occurs. In Prince Edward Island, where there is no provincial workmen's compensation Act in effect, compensation is paid to Dominion Government employees according to the provisions of the New Brunswick Act.

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 British Columbia, workmen contribute to the cost of medical aid; elsewhere it is borne by the Accident Fund. Where the employer is individually liable for compensation, he must also furnish medical aid.

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.

Scope of the Acts.—The Acts vary in scope, but, in general, they cover construction, mining, manufacturing, lumbering, fishing, transportation and communication 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 Alberta and British Columbia. 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.

Benefits.—Under each Act, a fixed period must elapse between the date of the accident and the date when compensation begins but in all cases 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.

At present, compensation in fatal cases is paid as follows:—

Burial expenses, \$100 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$150 in Manitoba and \$125 in the other provinces. In certain cases costs of transporting the body are also allowed.

To a widow or invalid widower, or to a foster-mother as long as the children are under the age limit, a monthly payment in New Brunswick of \$30, in Ontario of \$45, and in the remaining provinces \$40; in addition a lump sum of \$100 is paid in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

* Fuller information concerning the provincial Workmen's Compensation Acts is given in a pamphlet issued annually by the Department of Labour of Canada.