

**Fair-Wages Policy.**—Wages and hours for work on contracts for the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Dominion Government and for construction were governed for some years by a Resolution of the House of Commons (1900) which was later incorporated in an Order in Council and amended from time to time.

Contracts for construction are now regulated under the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, and to some extent, by an Order in Council of June 7, 1922, as amended Apr. 9, 1924. Hours on such work are limited to 8 per day and 44 per week except when declared exempt by Order in Council and the wages to be paid are those current for the type of work in the district concerned, or, if there are no current rates, fair and reasonable ones as determined by the Minister.

Wages and hours for work on contracts for equipment and supplies are regulated by the Order in Council of 1922 as amended on Dec. 31, 1934, and on Oct. 4, 1941. The hours on such work must be those fixed by the custom of the trade in the district where the work is performed, or fair and reasonable hours. The wages must be current or fair and reasonable and may not in any case be less than 35 cents and 25 cents per hour, respectively, for men and women over 18 years of age. Lower minimum rates are fixed for workers under 18 years of age and for learners. In both construction and supplies contracts, the term "current wages" and in the latter contracts, the term "hours fixed by the custom of the trade" mean the standard conditions fixed by agreement between employers and unions or, failing agreements, the actual conditions prevailing.

**Wartime Control of Wages.**—This policy is part of the Government's general anti-inflationary program and was adopted first in 1940 as an advisory policy. In October, 1941, it was made mandatory. As revised from time to time, the policy is set out in the Wartime Wages Control Order (Order in Council P.C. 9384, Dec. 9, 1943, as amended). Wage rates are stabilized at the level in effect on Nov. 15, 1941, but the cost-of-living bonuses payable under the previous Orders are added to and form part of the basic wage rates. No bonus is payable under the present Order on account of changes in the cost of living. The Administrative Boards are empowered to adjust rates so as to remove any "gross inequality or gross injustice".

A National War Labour Board and nine Regional War Labour Boards have been set up to administer the Order. The National Board consists of three independent members and it is advised by a committee of employers' and workers' representatives. The Provincial Ministers in charge of labour matters are the chairmen of the Regional Boards and the members are employers' and workers' representatives. In order to ensure uniformity in interpreting the Order, the National Board has power to review decisions of the Regional Boards and, after notice, to vary or revoke any decision. The inspection staffs of the Unemployment Insurance Commission and of the Provincial Departments are used for enforcement purposes.

**Wartime Labour Relations Regulations.**—Like the regulations stabilizing the wage-level and those providing for the distribution of manpower, the Dominion regulations to promote collective bargaining and to settle labour disputes deal with subjects which are, in large part, normally within provincial legislative jurisdiction. There is therefore considerable co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces in making them effective.