

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 in an emergency or 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 were added to and form part of the basic wage rates. The Administrative Boards are empowered by P.C. 348 of Jan. 31, 1945, to raise rates to the levels prevailing for the same or comparable occupations in the same or comparable localities. On June 30, 1946, the restrictions imposed, in effect, by the Wages Order on the provincial regulation of minimum wages, hours of work and holidays with pay will be removed.

A National War Labour Board and nine Regional War Labour Boards administer the Order. The National Board, of three members, has an advisory committee of employers' and workers' representatives. The Provincial Ministers of Labour are the chairmen of the Regional Boards and the members represent employers and workers. To ensure uniformity of interpretation, the National Board may review decisions of the Regional Boards and, after notice, may 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, the Dominion regulations to promote collective bargaining and to settle labour disputes deal with subjects that, in large part, are normally within provincial jurisdiction. There is, therefore, considerable co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces in making them effective.

The Labour Relations Regulations (P.C. 1003) of Feb. 17, 1944, have as their main principles compulsory collective bargaining, compulsory arbitration of disputes concerning matters arising out of a collective agreement if not settled in accordance with procedure set out in the agreement, and compulsory investigation of other disputes. The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act is suspended while the Regulations are in force. The Regulations are administered by the Wartime Labour Relations Board consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman and four repre-