

The rules are more stringent as to reporting accidents, and provision is made for appointment of an accident prevention officer. New sections provide that, on the Minister's order, the employer must forbid food to be taken into a room where manufacturing is being carried on, that an employer must not allow a workman to enter a tank, chamber, pit, pipe, flue or other confined space unless there is means of easy egress and unless the place has been ventilated and tested and the workman is wearing suitable apparatus, and must not permit an employee to enter a coal, sulphur or grain bunker or like dangerous structure without the prescribed safety equipment. Where there are harmful materials or gases or extremes of temperature or humidity, shower baths, wash basins and sufficient hot and cold water must be provided. If heat, light, or ventilation is unsatisfactory, or injurious conditions obtain, the Inspector may order remedial measures, and if they are not taken within 30 days the Minister may take what action he considers necessary.

The *Stationary Engineers Act, 1946*, reproduces provisions made in 1937 and sets forth qualifications required for licences to operate boilers and pressure vessels, making special provision for war veterans and merchant seamen.

The minimum school-leaving age was raised to 16 but the age of 14 may be retained by the ratepayers of any school district except cities and incorporated towns with school boards appointed in part by the town council and in part by the Governor in Council. Where the age is 14, a child may, as formerly, be exempted if he has passed Grade 8; where the age is 16, if he has passed Grade 11.

**Quebec.**—Changes in the *Labour Relations Act* increase from three to five, the members of the Labour Relations Board and authorize the Board to prescribe the necessary conditions of membership in an association to enable it to be regarded as representative of employees or of employers.

To the wages, hours, and apprenticeship provisions of an agreement, which may be made generally binding under the Collective Agreement Act, were added the provisions concerning holidays with pay. A joint committee was authorized which may give financial aid to any apprenticeship committee incorporated under the Apprenticeship Assistance Act.

The Minimum Wage Board was empowered to determine overtime rates for hourly-rated employees and to provide for holidays with pay.

**Ontario.**—Changes in the *Minimum Wage Act* permit minimum hourly rates to be fixed for overtime work and for work of less than 40 hours in a week.

Under the *Hours of Work and Vacations with Pay Act*, regulations were authorized to prescribe the period during which working hours must fall and to provide for paying a proportionate sum in lieu of a holiday to a worker employed for less than a year.

The *Fire Departments Act* now permits a municipal council to adopt, as alternative to a two- or three-platoon system, any system of hours or platoons, provided that, except in serious emergency, the hours of work or on duty do not exceed 72 in a week.

The *Labour Relations Board Act* enables the Government to apply the regulations under the Act to all employees within provincial jurisdiction when the Dominion Wartime Labour Relations Regulations cease to have effect.

The *Apprenticeship Act* now permits employment without a contract of apprenticeship during a probationary period of three months.