

Subsection 2.—Workmen's Compensation*

In all provinces, except Prince Edward Island, legislation is in force providing for compensation for 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 provincial Act provides for an accident fund, administered by a 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. 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. A Dominion Act 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 Act in effect, compensation is paid to Dominion Government employees according to the provisions of the New Brunswick Act. Dominion Regulations of 1945 under the War Measures Act providing compensation for seamen who are not under a provincial Workmen's Compensation Act were replaced in 1946 by the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act which makes like provision.

Free medical aid is given to workmen during disability in all provinces.

Compensation is payable in all provinces for anthrax and for poisoning from arsenic, lead, mercury and phosphorus. In all provinces, 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, transport and communications 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.

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 New Brunswick, \$150 in Manitoba and Nova Scotia, \$175 in Quebec, 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 Manitoba and Ontario of \$45 and in the remaining provinces \$40; in addition a lump sum of \$100 is paid in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

For each child in the care of a parent or foster-mother receiving compensation, a monthly payment is made of \$10 in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, but in the latter province \$12.50 is paid to children between

* Fuller information is given in an annual pamphlet issued by the Department of Labour.