

On May 6, 1947, first reading was given by the House of Commons to Bill 338, the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, which the Minister of Labour introduced to replace P.C. 1003. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Industrial Relations, which heard extensive representations from spokesmen for organized labour and associations of employers. Later, owing to the heavy legislative program of Parliament, the Bill was withdrawn. It was re-introduced in slightly amended form on Feb. 2, 1948, and passed third reading on June 17, 1948. Through the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, an interim extension of P.C. 1003 was made to cover the period from Mar. 31, 1948, to the date of proclamation of the new legislation.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Labour Departments

Labour legislation in Canada is, for the most part, a matter for the Provincial Legislatures since it usually governs, in some respect, the contract of service between employer and employee or the contract between members of a trade union which forms the basis of the union, or it regulates conditions in local work-places. The right to contract is a civil right and the British North America Act, which distributes legislative powers between the Parliament of Canada and the Provincial Legislatures, grants to the provinces power to enact laws in relation to "civil rights" and, with certain exceptions, "local works and undertakings".

In each province, except Prince Edward Island, a special Department or Bureau is charged with the administration of labour laws. In Alberta the Board of Industrial Relations under the Minister of Industries and Labour administers statutes concerning wages, hours and labour welfare, and the Department of Public Works has charge of factory legislation. Other provinces have Departments of Labour. Legislation for the protection of miners is administered by Departments dealing with mines.

Factory legislation in eight provinces and shops legislation in several provinces prohibit child labour, regulate the hours of women and young persons, and provide for safety and health. Other labour statutes in most provinces include minimum-wage legislation and maximum-hours laws, laws for the settlement of industrial disputes, legislation to ensure freedom of association and promote collective bargaining, and laws to provide for apprenticeship and the licensing of certain classes of workmen. The Industrial Standards Acts in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the Fair Wage Act in Manitoba enable the wages and hours of work agreed upon by representatives of employers and employed in designated trades to be made legal throughout the trade concerned. The Quebec Collective Agreement Act permits agreements between employers and trade unions to be made binding on all in the industry. Workmen's compensation laws in all provinces, except Prince Edward Island, are administered by independent boards.

For information regarding individual Provincial Departments of Labour, reference should be made to the annual reports of the Departments concerned or to the Deputy Ministers of Labour of the Provincial Governments.

Subsection 3.—Provincial Labour Legislation in 1947-48

Prince Edward Island.—The *Trade Union Act* was amended in 1948 to require trade unions to be registered with the Provincial Secretary and all members of a union to be employees. It also forbids a closed shop contract and the affiliation of a union in the Province with a national or international organization.