

may grant exemption from this provision. The Minister may order a medical examination of employees if he believes that they may be affected with an "industrial disease", which includes silicosis, and any other disease declared by Order in Council to be such.

**Quebec.**—Amendments to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* increased monthly payments to a widow or invalid widower from \$40 to \$45. The minimum to a surviving consort and one child was increased from \$50 to \$55 a month and where there is more than one child from \$12.50 a week to \$65 a month. The maximum amount of earnings on which compensation may be based was raised from \$2,000 to \$2,500 a year.

The *Minimum Wage Act* was made applicable to employees of an employer whose business or residence is in the Province but who either work in and out of the Province or live in the Province and work outside it, provided that they are not covered by another Minimum Wage Act while working outside the Province.

The *Trade Disputes Act* was amended to add provisions relating to disputes between municipal and school corporations and their employees.

The *Professional Syndicates Act* was amended to enable employers to form syndicates under the Act. At least 20 persons in any group seeking to form a syndicate must be Canadian citizens as must all members of the Council and staff.

**Ontario.**—Amendments to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* increased compensation to a widow or invalid husband from \$45 to \$50 a month, with an increase from \$10 to \$12 a month for each child and from \$15 to \$20 for each orphan child. The minimum monthly payment to a widow or invalid husband is now \$50 or the amount of the workman's earnings, if less, instead of \$45 or earnings. Minimum compensation to a widow or invalid widower and one or more children is now \$62, instead of \$55, irrespective of the amount of the workman's earnings, with a further \$12, instead of \$10 for each additional child unless the total monthly payment exceeds the workman's average earnings when minimum compensation is the amount of such earnings or \$62, whichever is greater. Minimum compensation for temporary total disability was increased from \$12.50 to \$15 a week or average earnings and for temporary or permanent partial disability a proportionate amount. For permanent total disability the minimum payment is now \$100 a month, or average earnings, if less, instead of \$12.50 a week or earnings, if less. From Jan. 1, 1947, a workman injured in an accident happening on or after Jan. 1, 1915, is entitled to medical aid. Heretofore, medical aid has not been payable in respect of a workman injured before July 1, 1917, the date on which the Act first provided for medical aid.

The *Labour Relations Act, 1948* continues the Labour Relations Board set up under the earlier Act, which was repealed, and enabled the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to give effect within the Province, with such changes as he may consider necessary, to legislation of the Federal Parliament which, in his opinion, covers the same field as the *Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, 1948*.

The revised *Fire Departments Act* contains new provisions for collective bargaining and compulsory arbitration of disputes. Similar provisions were added to the *Police Act* as well as amendments forbidding a member of a municipal police force to remain or to become a member of a trade union or of any organization affiliated directly or indirectly with a trade union. Members of a police force may, however, belong to an association for improving conditions of service, if membership is limited to one force.