

CHAPTER XIX.—LABOUR*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Section 1.—The Government in Relation to Labour

Subsection 1.—The Federal Department of Labour

The Department of Labour of Canada was established in 1900 by the Conciliation Act which provided machinery to aid in preventing and settling labour disputes, and required the Department to collect, compile and publish statistical and other information. The Department assumed, too, the administration of the Fair Wages Policy which was adopted in the same year for the protection of workmen employed in the execution of Federal Government contracts and on works aided by grants from public funds.

At the present time, in addition to the statutory duty of disseminating information concerning labour and industrial matters, the Minister is responsible for the administration of certain statutes; Conciliation and Labour Act; Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935; Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, 1942; Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940; Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1946; Government Annuities Act; and Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, 1948.

Fair Wages Policy.—Wages and hours of work on contracts for the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Federal Government and for construction were governed for some years by a Resolution of the House of Commons (1900) which was later incorporated in an Order in Council and amended from time to time. Contracts for construction are now regulated under the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, and by an Order in Council of June 7, 1922, as amended

* Except as otherwise noted, this Chapter has been prepared or revised under the direction of A. MacNamara, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of Labour, Ottawa.