

The Minister of Labour is charged with the administration of the Act and is directly responsible for the provisions, for the appointment of Conciliation Officers, Conciliation Boards and Industrial Inquiry Commissions, for consent to prosecute and for the making of complaints that the Act has been violated or that a party has failed to bargain in good faith.

The Canada Labour Relations Board (successor to the Wartime Labour Relations Board) administers provisions concerning the certification of bargaining agent, the writing of a procedure into a collective agreement for the final settlement of disputes concerning the meaning or violation of such agreement, and the investigation of complaints made to the Minister that a party has failed to bargain collectively.

Between March, 1944, and August, 1948, the Wartime Labour Relations Board received 700 applications for the certification of bargaining representatives, 388 of which were granted. From Sept. 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949, the Canada Labour Relations Board dealt with 68 applications for certification, 32 of which were granted.

Of the 524 industrial disputes dealt with under the conciliation provisions of the Wartime Labour Relations Regulations, 231 were settled by Conciliation Officers and 186 by Conciliation Boards; the conciliation procedure failed to avert work stoppages in only 12 of the 524 cases. From Sept. 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949, 35 disputes were dealt with under the new legislation; as at June 30, 1949, 18 of these disputes had been settled by Conciliation Officers and two by Conciliation Boards.

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 respects, 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 Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the Alberta Labour Act 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