

CHAPTER XVII.—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.—Federal Labour Legislation

The Federal Department of Labour was established in 1900 under 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 relevant information. The Department assumed, too, the administration of the Fair Wages Policy 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 present, in addition to the statutory duty of disseminating information concerning labour and industrial matters, the Minister of Labour is responsible for the administration of certain statutes: Conciliation and Labour Act, 1906; Government Annuities Act, 1908; Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935; Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940; Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, 1942; Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, 1946; Merchant Seamen Compensation Act, 1946; Government Employees Compensation Act, 1947; and Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act, 1948. (See also pp. 87-88.)

Fair Wages Policy.—Wages and hours of work on contracts for construction and for the manufacture of equipment and supplies for the Federal Government 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 Apr. 9, 1924, and May 2, 1949, and consolidated in November 1949. Hours on such work are limited to eight per day and 44 per week except in an emergency or in special

* Except as otherwise noted, this Chapter has been revised under the direction of A. H. Brown, Deputy Minister, Department of Labour, Ottawa.