

British Columbia.—The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended to implement some of the recommendations of Chief Justice Sloan who, in 1949, was appointed Royal Commissioner to inquire into the operation of the Act. The amendments provide that compensation for disability is to be computed on the basis of 70 p.c. of average earnings instead of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ p.c., and that the limit placed on the amount of annual earnings taken into account be raised from \$2,500 to \$3,600. The minimum weekly payment for total disability is increased from \$12.50 to \$15 or the full amount of average weekly earnings if less than \$15.

Higher benefits to dependants in death cases were made effective from Apr. 1, 1952, regardless of when the accident or disablement occurred. The amendments increase the burial allowance from \$150 to \$250, the monthly allowance for a widow or invalid widower from \$50 to \$75, the payment for a dependent child from \$12.50 to \$20, the benefit for an orphan child from \$20 to \$30, and the maximum amount payable to all dependants, where there is no widow or children, from \$55 to \$75. The hospital insurance premium for widows, invalid widowers and their dependants and for orphan children who are receiving compensation under the Act is now to be paid by the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Regulation of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The regulation of wages and hours of labour of persons in private employment is within provincial jurisdiction and all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island, have legislation on the subject.

In Nova Scotia, the minimum wage law applies only to women; in Ontario, though the Act applies to both sexes, Orders in Council apply only to women. In New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, there are separate Orders for men and women but in British Columbia many Orders cover both sexes. In Quebec and Saskatchewan all Orders apply to both sexes. Under the Newfoundland Minimum Wage Act, 1950, a general Order for male workers is in effect.

In Quebec, under the Collective Agreement Act, hours and wages and also apprenticeship, vacations with pay and family allowances provisions established by a collective agreement voluntarily entered into by employers and unions or groups of employees may be made legally binding by Order in Council on all employers and employees in the industry in the district covered by the agreement, if the parties are sufficiently representative of the industry. At Mar. 31, 1952, 100 agreements had been generalized to apply either throughout the Province or to a certain district. These agreements covered 215,926 workers and 21,409 employers. The agreements in force throughout the Province apply to the following industries: building materials, the manufacture of women's cloaks and suits, dresses, millinery, men's and boys' clothing, men's and boys' hats and caps, men's and boys' shirts, ladies' handbags, fine gloves and work gloves, shoes, furniture, paints, corrugated and uncorrugated paper boxes, tanning and elevator construction. Other agreements concern industries in particular cities or parts of the Province including all building trades and printing trades in the large urban centres and many rural districts. During 1952, an agreement for the structural iron erection industry was extended for the first time and one affecting hospital employees in a certain area was repealed. (For statistics, see pp. 744-745.)

The industrial standards Acts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan and the Alberta Labour Act provide that wages and hours agreed upon at a conference of representatives of employers and employees called by the