

Factory legislation and shops legislation in several of the provinces prohibit child labour, regulate the hours of women and young persons, and provide for safety and health. Most provinces have minimum-wage legislation and maximum-hours laws, and legislation to ensure freedom of association, to promote collective bargaining and to provide for the settlement of industrial disputes, and to provide for apprenticeship and the licensing of certain classes of workmen. The Industrial Standards Act in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, the Alberta Labour Act and the Fair Wage Act in Manitoba enable the wages and hours of work agreed upon at a conference of representatives of employers and employees in designated trades to be made the minimum standards throughout the trade concerned. The Quebec Collective Agreement Act permits collective agreements between employers and trade unions to be made binding on all in the industry. Workmen's compensation laws, in all provinces, are administered by independent boards.

Provincial labour legislation enacted in 1953 and 1954 is outlined in the following paragraphs.

Newfoundland.—In 1953, the *St. John's Shops Act* was amended to require shops to be closed one full day each week besides Sunday, and to limit hours of shop employees to 44 a week.

The *Apprenticeship Act* was amended in 1954 to ensure that no person between the ages of 16 and 21, eligible for apprenticeship, is employed in a designated trade for more than three months except under a contract of apprenticeship. Exceptions may be allowed by Provincial Apprenticeship Board permit.

Prince Edward Island.—The *Trade Union Act* was amended in 1953 to include a procedure for certifying a bargaining agent and for a government-supervised strike vote. If the employees of a public utility vote in favour of a strike, the dispute is to be referred to a special commission, composed of the members of the Public Utilities Commission and two other persons appointed for each dispute. The Commission's decision is binding.

Nova Scotia.—In 1953, a provision was added to the *Nova Scotia Teachers' Union Act* to authorize collective bargaining between the Teachers' Union and school boards. A conciliation board may be established if the parties are unable to reach agreement on salaries or other conditions of employment.

The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended in 1953 to reduce the waiting period from seven to five days. If a workman is disabled for five days or longer, compensation is payable from the date of the accident. In the event of death, the benefits to dependants are increased. The monthly payment for a child under 16 years is raised from \$15 to \$20, and of an orphan child from \$25 to \$30. The minimum compensation to a workman who suffers total disability is increased from \$12.50 to \$15 a week, subject to the provision that if his total weekly earnings are less than \$15, he will receive the amount of his earnings.

Under a 1954 consolidation of the Act, coverage is extended to the following industries, effective Jan. 1, 1955: hotels, restaurants, catering, dairies, wholesale and retail stores, broadcasting stations, artificial ice production, peat processing, landscaping and operation of bridges.

An amendment to the *Coal Mines Regulation Act*, in 1954, raises the minimum age for employment underground in coal mines from 17 to 18 years.