

New Brunswick.—The *Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act* passed in 1953 requires a contractor engaged in construction work for the provincial government to pay his employees "fair wages", that is the current rate paid to other workmen performing the same class of work in the district, and to limit hours of work to eight in a day and 44 in a week unless longer hours are authorized.

A new *Vacation Pay Act* passed in 1954 applying to mining and the construction industry requires an annual vacation of at least one week with pay after a year's employment. A system of vacation-with-pay credit stamps is provided for employees who do not work a full year for the same employer. The vacation pay to be granted is 2 p.c. of the employee's earnings. The Act will come into force on proclamation.

The *Weekly Rest Act*, effective from Aug. 1, 1954, requires a weekly rest period of at least 24 hours, and covers practically all employees in the Province except farm workers.

The application of the *Stationary Engineers' Act* is extended to hot-water boilers and provision made for a fourth-class engineer's certificate.

Quebec.—Further measures were passed by the Quebec Legislature in 1953 to exempt the decisions of the Labour Relations Board and of councils of arbitration under labour Acts from supervision by the courts.

In 1954, the *Labour Relations Act* was amended, retroactive to the date the Act went into effect in 1944, to require the Labour Relations Board to decertify or refuse to certify a union if any of its organizers or officers belong to the communist party or movement.

A 1954 amendment to the *Public Service Employees Disputes Act*, also retroactive to 1944, provides that if a union of employees of a school corporation, a hospital or charitable institution or a public utility service goes on strike it will automatically lose its certification as bargaining agent.

Ontario.—In 1953, amendments to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* provide increased monthly allowances to dependants of a deceased workman; for a widow the allowance is raised from \$50 to \$75 and for a child under 16 years of age from \$12 to \$25. The monthly allowance for an orphan child is increased from \$20 to \$35.

The *Elevators and Lifts Act, 1953*, proclaimed June 17, 1954, and regulations under it, establish a system of provincial supervision over the licensing and inspection of most elevators in the Province except passenger elevators in the city of Toronto. Plans and specifications for new elevators must be approved, annual inspections are required, and operators must be licensed.

In 1954, amendments to the *Labour Relations Act* aimed at reducing delays, shorten the periods allowed under the Act for the various steps in collective bargaining and conciliation and give the Minister authority to refuse to appoint a conciliation board where, in his view, it would serve no useful purpose. To facilitate bargaining between employers and groups of trade unions, one amendment provides for the recognition of councils of trade unions as bargaining agents under the Act.

The *Trench Excavators Protection Act, 1954*, is a new Act designed to protect workers from dangers in trench excavation. An inspector of trench excavation work is to be appointed by each municipal council. The Act requires that before work