

**New Brunswick.**—By an amendment to the *Trades Examination Act*, plumbing and pipe fitting are added to the trades for which Boards of Examiners may be appointed for the examination and certification of tradesmen who wish to qualify for journeyman status. Under a new *Plumbing Trade Act*, proclaimed in force Oct. 15, 1955, regulations governing plumbing installations may be made and applied to specific areas. These regulations may provide that only workmen who hold certificates may engage in the plumbing trade in those areas.

Effective Jan. 1, 1956 the compensation rate under the *Workmen's Compensation Act* is raised from 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  p.c. to 70 p.c. of average annual earnings. Coverage is extended to persons employed by school boards or vocational committees as home economics teachers, industrial teachers, shop teachers, maintenance employees, caretakers and bus operators.

An Act was passed to provide assistance to workmen who contracted silicosis during employment in New Brunswick prior to June 1, 1948, when silicosis was designated as an industrial disease under the *Workmen's Compensation Act*.

**Quebec.**—The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended by increasing the monthly pension to a widow from \$45 to \$55 and the special lump sum payable following the death of her husband from \$100 to \$200, by raising the allowance for each child under 18 years of age from \$10 to \$20 and by increasing the amount allowed for funeral expenses from \$175 to \$200.

**Ontario.**—The *Trench Excavators' Protection Act* passed in 1954 is declared not to apply to the excavation of a trench for a pipeline if the work is done mechanically. Work may be begun on an excavation in order to make repairs or to prevent injury to persons or damage to property without giving prior notice to the municipal inspector, provided that notice is given as soon as practicable. The Sections governing shoring and timbering are amended to relax the requirements to some extent where it is considered that safety is not endangered. At no time may a person be allowed to work alone in a trench more than 20 feet deep unless another person is on duty outside the trench and near at hand.

The Section of the *Fire Departments Act* which governs collective bargaining and arbitration of disputes between a municipal council and a bargaining committee of the full time fire-fighters is amended to provide for the appointment of a single arbitrator to render a binding decision concerning a dispute arising out of the terms of a collective agreement or an arbitration award or concerning an allegation that the agreement or award has been violated. If the parties cannot agree upon an arbitrator within ten days the Attorney-General is to name one.

**Manitoba.**—The *Fire Departments Arbitration Act* which provides for arbitration of disputes between a certified union of municipal firemen and a municipality was amended to require bargaining to take place in the autumn of the year and to set time limits on the arbitration procedure.

The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended to raise to the current level the monthly compensation payable to children receiving compensation according to previous scales.

**Saskatchewan.**—In the revision of the *Workmen's Compensation Act* the allowance to a widow is raised from \$60 to \$75 a month and the orphan's allowance from \$30 to \$35. The increases apply to all widows and children receiving compensation. The limit of \$100 formerly placed on the amount allowed for transporting a workman's body for burial, where death occurs away from his place of residence, is removed. A higher minimum is fixed for total disability; for permanent total disability the amount is increased from \$20 to \$25 a week and for temporary total disability from \$15 to \$25 a week or average earnings if they are less than that amount.

The *Trade Union Act* was amended to give the Labour Relations Board authority to vary the expiry dates of collective agreements under certain circumstances.