

an inspection staff who are all required to hold certificates of competency. No elevator or lift may be operated unless it is licensed by the Chief Inspector. Should an accident occur in an elevator or lift, the owner must notify the Chief Inspector within 24 hours. Safety standards with respect to construction, installation and maintenance of elevators and lifts may be set by regulation. The Act is in force from Jan. 1, 1958.

A new *Equal Pay Act*, which was passed in 1956 and became effective on Jan. 1, 1957, forbids an employer to pay a female employee at a lower rate than a male employee for the same work in the same establishment. A difference in the rate of pay between a female and a male based on any factor other than sex does not constitute a failure to comply with the Act. An individual claiming to be aggrieved may make a complaint in writing to a designated officer of the Department of Labour who will inquire into the matter and try to effect a settlement. If he is unsuccessful, the Minister of Labour may appoint a commission to investigate and make recommendations, and may issue an order requiring the commission's recommendations to be carried out. Failure to comply with the order is an offence punishable by a fine on summary conviction.

The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended in 1956 to raise the rate of compensation for disability from 66  $\frac{2}{3}$  to 70 p.c. of average earnings. By a further amendment, the minimum amount payable in cases of permanent total disability was raised from \$85 to \$100 a month.

The *Trade Union Act* was amended in 1957 authorizing the Labour Relations Board to refer to the Supreme Court for an opinion on any question which, in the Board's opinion, is a question of law.

An amendment made in 1956 to the *Engine Operators Act* permits a certificate to be issued to a qualified candidate who has been in Canada for at least one year and who has filed a declaration of intention to become a Canadian citizen. Formerly, applicants for certificates were required to be British subjects.

**New Brunswick.**—A *Fair Employment Practices Act*, passed in 1956 and becoming effective June 1, 1956, forbids discrimination by employers with regard to employment and by trade unions with regard to membership on grounds of race, national origin, colour or religion. Application forms, advertisements, and written and oral inquiries in connection with employment which express any limitation or preference as to race, colour, national origin or religion are prohibited. The Act applies to all employers with five or more employees, and also binds the Crown in right of the Province.

A 1956 amendment to the *Labour Relations Act* brings certain police officers under the Act, and provides that a municipal corporation or police commission which fixes their conditions of employment will be deemed to be an employer under the Act.

By a 1957 amendment, to the *Workmen's Compensation Act*, effective Jan. 1, 1958, the ceiling on earnings was raised to \$4,000 from \$3,000.

**Quebec.**—The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended in 1956 to raise the proportion of earnings on which compensation is based from 70 to 75 p.c., and to reduce the waiting period from seven to five days.

**Ontario.**—The *Police Act*, which provides for collective bargaining and the settlement of disputes between members of the police force and the employing municipal council, was amended in 1956 to specify time limits for the different steps in bargaining and settlement of disputes by arbitration, and provides that every agreement must contain a provision for the settlement of disputes arising out of an agreement or award. Amendments to the *Fire Departments Act* also set new time limits for collective bargaining and arbitration. A new Section setting out the procedure to be followed when a fire-fighter is dismissed provides that, if the fire-fighter so requests in writing, he must within seven days of receipt of a notice of discharge be given a hearing before the municipal council or a committee of the council.