

Under the general provisions of the Act, the employment of a child under 15 years of age is forbidden, except with a written permit from the Minister, and no child may be employed in such a manner that his safety, health or moral well-being may be adversely affected. Employment in factories of both boys and girls under 15 years of age is prohibited (formerly the prohibition applied to boys under 14 and to girls under 15). Birth certificates are required for the employment of adolescents under 18 years, instead of under 16 as previously. Further, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may prohibit the employment of boys or girls under 18 (formerly, girls under 18, boys under 16) in a factory in which the work is considered dangerous, unwholesome or unhealthy.

More supervision of 'take-home work' is provided for. An employer intending to give out home work must first register with the Minister, and the Minister, in his absolute discretion, may impose "conditions and limitations" upon the work in so far as remuneration is concerned.

Regulations may be made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council governing industries that utilize radioactive substances. Factories with fewer than three employees are no longer exempt from the provisions of the Act. There is now a much stronger provision regarding the cleaning of moving machinery. Cleaning or servicing of machinery involving danger to the employee doing the work is prohibited while the machinery is in motion, except with the Minister's written authorization.

Basement factories may be established only with the written permission of the Minister, who may specify the minimum standard of lighting or ventilation, or both, to be provided and lay down other conditions of operation.

The *Steam and Pressure Plants Act* was amended in 1957 to extend its coverage to plants subject to a pressure of 15 lb. p.s.i. or over (rather than 50 lb. p.s.i. as before). Any refrigeration plant or compressed gas plant subject to a pressure of 15 lb. p.s.i. or over must be operated by an engineer holding a certificate of qualification under the *Operating Engineers and Firemen Act*.

Saskatchewan.—The *Workmen's Compensation (Accident Fund) Act* was amended in 1956 to raise from \$4,000 to \$5,000 the maximum earnings that may be taken into account in computing compensation. The immediate lump sum payable to the widow on the death of a workman is increased from \$100 to \$250. Amendments passed in 1957 increased the monthly allowance to a child in the care of a parent from \$25 to \$35 and that payable to an orphan from \$35 to \$45.

The *Fair Employment Practices Act, 1956*, replaces provisions of the *Bill of Rights Act* dealing with discrimination in employment and prohibits discrimination in regard to employment and membership in trade unions by reason of religion, colour, ethnic or national origin. An employer is forbidden to use an employment agency that discriminates on these grounds. The Act adopts the administrative and enforcement procedure which is common to other provincial fair employment practices legislation.

Amendments to the *Minimum Wage Act* in 1956 add to the powers of the Minimum Wage Board in determining minimum wages and certain other working conditions. A 1957 amendment provides that, in recommending the minimum wage to be fixed, the Board may take into account the amount which it deems fair and reasonable, having regard to the wages that it considers to be generally prevailing in the class of employees affected, and the amount which it deems adequate to furnish the necessary cost of living to the employees concerned.

A new *Wages Recovery Act* was passed in 1957 providing for the collection of unpaid wages by making a complaint before a justice of the peace or a police magistrate and authorizing Department of Labour inspectors to collect wages due to an employee. The amendments raise from \$400 to \$500 the maximum amount of wages a magistrate may order an employer to pay.

The *Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act* was amended in 1957 to require an employer carrying on business in a designated trade to keep specified records of employees in his employ. Powers of inspection were also provided for in the amendment.