

A new section was added in 1957 to the *Annual Holidays Act* to provide that, where a business is sold, leased, transferred or otherwise disposed of, the service of the employees concerned will, for the purpose of qualifying for vacations, be deemed to be continuous and uninterrupted.

Alberta.—Amendments were made to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* in 1956 incorporating recommendations of a special legislative committee set up in 1955 to investigate the operation of the Act. The monthly compensation payable to a widow was increased from \$50 to \$60. Provision was also made for an increase from \$100 to \$150 in the immediate lump sum payment to the widow on the death of the workman. The monthly payment to dependent children was raised from \$25 to \$30. The rates of all widows' and children's pensions were raised. Compensation is now payable to a child who is over 16 years of age at the time of his father's death, to permit the continuance of his education to age 18. In disability cases the maximum earnings on which compensation may be based are raised from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Amendments were made to the *Police Act* in 1956 to provide for an appointment of a conciliation commissioner in disputes regarding the remuneration and working conditions of municipal police forces before a dispute goes to arbitration.

Extensive amendments were made in 1957 to the *Alberta Labour Act* which covers hours of work, minimum wages, holidays with pay, industrial standards and labour relations. A new section was added (Part VI) under which an employer is forbidden to pay a female employee at any lesser rate than the rate at which he pays a male employee for identical or substantially identical work. A difference in rates of pay based on any factor other than sex is permissible, however. An employer and employees bound by a collective agreement in force on July 1, 1957, are exempted from the application of the legislation for the duration of the agreement or one year, whichever is shorter. The provisions regarding equal pay are to be administered by the Board of Industrial Relations.

The weekly rest provisions were amended to ensure that an employee is given a day off "immediately following each period of not more than six consecutive days of work" The former wording requiring an employer to grant a day of rest "in each period of seven consecutive days" allowed the employer to give an employee the first day of one week and the last day of the following week.

Every employer who employs eleven or more employees must now give to each employee a written statement for each pay period, showing hours worked, wages at overtime rate, any bonus or living allowance paid and deductions. The employer of fewer than eleven employees must furnish such a statement on request. Under the former provisions an employer was obliged to furnish pay statements only upon request.

British Columbia.—A new *Annual Holidays Act* passed in 1956, effective from July 1, 1957, provides for an annual holiday of two weeks instead of one week and provides a corresponding increase in the rate of vacation pay from 2 p.c. to 4 p.c. of annual earnings.

A new *Fair Employment Practices Act* passed in 1956 forbids employers to refuse to employ, to discharge, or to discriminate against any person because of his race, colour, religion, nationality, ancestry or place of origin. Trade unions are also prohibited from excluding from membership, from expelling or suspending a member or person for any of these reasons. Expressions of discrimination in employment application forms, in advertisements or written or oral inquiries with respect to prospective employment are also banned. The Act does not apply to employers with fewer than five employees, to domestic servants in private homes or to non-profit charitable, philanthropic, educational, fraternal, religious or social organizations. Institutions under the Public Schools Act are covered.