

CHAPTER XVI.—LABOUR*

CONSPECTUS

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The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

Section 1.—The Government in Relation to Labour

Subsection 1.—Federal Labour Legislation

The federal Department of Labour was established in 1900 under the Conciliation Act which provided machinery to aid in preventing and settling labour disputes and required the Department to collect, compile and publish statistical and other relevant information. The Department also assumed the administration of the Fair Wages Policy adopted in the same year for the protection of workmen employed in the execution of Federal Government contracts and on works aided by grants from public funds.

The statutory duty of disseminating information concerning labour and industrial matters is set out in the Department of Labour Act passed in 1909. In addition, the Minister is responsible for the administration of the following statutes: Conciliation and Labour Act (1906); Government Annuities Act (1908)†; Government Employees Compensation Act (1918); Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act (1935); Unemployment Insurance Act (1940); Vocational Training Co-ordination Act (1942); Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act (1946); Merchant Seamen Compensation Act (1946); Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act (1948); Canada Fair Employment Practices Act (1953); Female Employees Equal Pay Act (1956); and Annual Vacations Act (1958).

Fair Wages Policy.—The Fair Wages Policy applying to all Federal Government contracts was first set forth in a Resolution of the House of Commons (1900) and later incorporated in an Order in Council and amended from time to time. Wages and hours on contracts for construction are now regulated by the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act and Order in Council P.C. 2029 of Dec. 22, 1954. Hours of work on construction contracts are limited to eight per day and 44 per week, except in an emergency or in special circumstances where exemption is granted by Order in Council; wages to be paid are those current for the type of work in the district or, if there are no current rates, fair and reasonable rates as determined by the Minister of Labour.

* Except as otherwise noted, this Chapter has been revised under the direction of the Deputy Minister of the Department of Labour, Ottawa.

† Statistics and details of administration under this Act are given in Chapter XXIV on Insurance.