

The *Workmen's Compensation Act* was amended to raise the ceiling on annual earnings from \$3,000 to \$4,000. The monthly payment to a widow was increased from \$50 to \$65. A further provision broadened the definition of "accident" by including in it the words "as well as disablement arising out of and in the course of his employment".

Nova Scotia.—Amendments to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* provided for a higher minimum compensation payment for permanent total disability, and empowered the Workmen's Compensation Board to pay an additional allowance to a totally disabled workman requiring special treatment, services or attendance. Increased compensation in respect of past accidents in temporary total, temporary partial and permanent total disability cases was authorized. All disability pensions paid under the Act are now based on 75 p.c. of earnings, regardless of the date of the accident.

Traction plants and internal combustion engine plants were removed from the coverage of the *Engine Operators Act*. The definition of steam plants was also amended to limit the application of the Act to plants in which steam is used for motive power.

New Brunswick.—An equal pay law, the *Female Employees Fair Remuneration Act*, was enacted, with effect from Sept. 1, 1961, prohibiting an employer from paying a female employee at a lower rate of pay than the rate paid to a male employee "for the same work done in the same establishment". An aggrieved person may file a written complaint with the Minister of Labour. Administrative and enforcement provisions are similar to those in other Canadian equal pay statutes.

Dieticians, nurses and teachers were excluded from the definition of "employee" in the *Labour Relations Act*. A further amendment repealed the provision permitting a municipality to pass a resolution removing its employees from the scope of the Act, with the result that all municipal employees are now covered. The certification sections of the Act were amended to make it clear that the appropriateness of a unit and union membership of employees are to be determined as of the date of the application for certification. A further change is that the Act now authorizes a prosecution for an offence under the Act to be brought by or against a trade union or an employers' organization. Previously, a prosecution could be brought only against such organizations.

The *Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act*, which formerly required contractors in provincial government construction work to observe an eight-hour day and a 44-hour week, except in special circumstances, was amended to remove the daily limit on hours.

The *Stationary Engineers Act* was amended, giving new regulation-making authority to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council regarding pressure vessels used in storing compressed gas, the storage, distribution and use of the gas, and the licensing of firms handling it.

Quebec.—The *Labour Relations Act* was amended to accelerate conciliation proceedings, to provide for final and binding arbitration of grievances resulting from the interpretation or application of a collective agreement and to ensure that a union's certification and collective agreement remain valid when a business changes hands. Changes with respect to conciliation services include a provision enabling the 14-day period within which a conciliation officer is required to report to be extended on the written agreement of the parties. A council of arbitration (conciliation board) must report within 45 days following the date of the conciliation officer's report and is no longer required to make recommendations but will merely advise the Minister whether or not the dispute has been settled. Previously, strikes and lockouts were prohibited until 14 days had elapsed after receipt by the Minister of a conciliation board report. The restriction on a strike or lockout now comes to an end either 14 days after the Minister receives the report or 75 days after the receipt of the original request for conciliation services (90 days in the case of a first agreement). A new provision requires the Labour Relations Board to give reasons for its decisions. Another provides for the appointment of a second vice-chairman, enabling the Board to sit in three panels.