

CHAPTER XVIII.—LABOUR*

CONSPECTUS

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

Section 1.—The Government in Relation to Labour

Subsection 1.—The Federal Department of Labour and the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration

The Department of Labour

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. Since that time the Department has been charged with the administration of new legislation and has taken on new functions. Its work fell broadly into two main areas—industrial relations and manpower supply—until Jan. 1, 1966, when all manpower activities were transferred to a new Department of Manpower and Immigration (see p. 732).

The legislation now administered by the Department of Labour in the industrial relations area applies to employers, workers and trade unions under federal jurisdiction. The Department is responsible for conciliation procedures in industrial disputes, the investigation of complaints of unfair labour practices, refusals to bargain and violations of legislation, the processing of applications for the certification and decertification of trade unions and the conducting of representation votes. It determines wage rates and hours of work in Federal Government contracts for construction or supplies, and promotes joint labour-management consultation. It also administers legislation to prevent discrimination in employment based on race, religion, colour or national origin and to provide for equal pay for female employees. In 1965, the Canada Labour (Standards) Code became law. The Code establishes minimum standards of wages, hours of work, vacations with pay and paid general holidays in industries under federal jurisdiction.

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