

The Minister of Labour is charged with the administration of the Act and is directly responsible for the provisions affecting the appointment of conciliation officers, conciliation boards and industrial inquiry commissions, consent to prosecute, and complaints that the Act has been violated or that a party has failed to bargain in good faith.

The Canada Labour Relations Board administers provisions concerning the certification of bargaining agents, the writing of a procedure into a collective agreement for the final settlement of disputes concerning the meaning or violation of such agreement, and the investigation of complaints made to the Minister that a party has failed to bargain collectively.

Detailed statistics concerning activities under the Act may be found in the Annual Report of the Department of Labour. In brief, the Canada Labour Relations Board has received 408 applications for certification since Sept. 1, 1948, 242 being granted, 94 rejected, 61 withdrawn and 11 pending at Mar. 31, 1953.

Of the 191 industrial disputes dealt with under the conciliation provisions of the Act, 143 were settled by conciliation officers and conciliation boards, 20 were not settled, 8 lapsed and 20 were pending at Mar. 31, 1953.

### **Subsection 2.—Provincial Labour Legislation**

Labour legislation in Canada is, for the most part, a matter for the provincial legislatures since it usually governs, in some respects, the contract of service between employer and employee or the contract between members of a trade union which forms the basis of the union, or it regulates conditions in local work-places. The right to contract is a civil right and the British North America Act, which distributes legislative powers between the Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures, grants to the provinces power to enact laws in relation to "civil rights" and, with certain exceptions, "local works and undertakings".

In each province, except Prince Edward Island, a Department of Labour (in Alberta, the Department of Industries and Labour) is charged with the administration of labour laws. Legislation for the protection of miners is administered by departments dealing with mines.

Factory legislation in eight provinces and shops legislation in several provinces prohibit child labour, regulate the hours of women and young persons, and provide for safety and health. Other labour statutes in most provinces include minimum-wage legislation and maximum-hours laws, legislation to ensure freedom of association, to promote collective bargaining and to provide for the settlement of industrial disputes, and laws to provide for apprenticeship and the licensing of certain classes of workmen. The Industrial Standards Acts in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, the Alberta Labour Act and the Fair Wage Act in Manitoba enable the wages and hours of work agreed upon at a conference of representatives of employers and employees in designated trades to be made legal throughout the trade concerned. The Quebec Collective Agreement Act permits collective agreements between employers and trade unions to be made binding on all in the industry. Workmen's compensation laws in all provinces are administered by independent boards.

Provincial labour legislation enacted in 1952 is outlined in the following paragraphs.