

The *Trade Union Act* was amended to protect the pension rights of an employee whose service is broken by a lockout or by a legal strike.

An amendment to the *Hours of Work Act* provides that, for overtime worked in any week in which a paid holiday occurs, time and one-half becomes payable after 36 hours instead of after 44 hours as in an ordinary week.

Under the *Factories Act*, the limits set for special overtime work by women and young persons under 18 years of age were reduced from 12½ to 10 hours a day and from 72½ to 60 hours a week. Normal working hours of women and young persons are limited to 48 in a week.

Alberta.—New provisions added to the *Fire Departments Platoon Act* concerning collective bargaining and arbitration of disputes became effective July 1, 1953. When requested in writing by a majority of the full-time firefighters, a municipal council is required to bargain in good faith with a committee representing the firemen to determine wages, pensions and other working conditions. If an agreement cannot be reached, the points at issue are to be referred to an arbitration board whose decision is binding. Provisions of an agreement or award involving expenditures may only become effective at the beginning of the fiscal period in which provision for such expenditures is made in the municipal estimates.

A consolidation of the *Police Act* effective July 1, 1953, made provision for bargaining and for arbitration of disputes for full-time members of a municipal police force similar to those described above for firemen. Policemen may not belong to a trade union, but may have their own association for bargaining purposes.

In 1954, Part V of the *Alberta Labour Act*, which deals with collective bargaining and the settlement of disputes in industry generally, was amended in a number of details.

British Columbia.—Effective Dec. 31, 1953, the *Equal Pay Act* forbids an employer to pay a female employee at a lower rate than a male employee for the same work done in the same establishment. A woman who considers that she is not being paid at the rate required by the Act may file a complaint with the Board of Industrial Relations.

The *Labour Relations Act*, proclaimed in force on June 16, 1954, replaced the *Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act*.

One of the chief differences between the present and the previous legislation is that the Minister of Labour now has the authority, formerly vested in the Labour Relations Board, to appoint conciliation officers, conciliation boards and mediation committees.

A further new provision permits the conciliation officer's recommendations to be accepted in place of a report of a conciliation board in certain cases. The parties are required, within 18 days, to advise the Minister of their acceptance or rejection of the conciliation officer's recommendation or the conciliation board's report.

The Section giving authority to the Labour Relations Board to decertify a union representing employees who had gone on strike contrary to the Act was replaced by a provision permitting the reference of the strike to a Judge of the Supreme Court. He has the power to revoke the union's certification, check-off arrangement and the collective agreement to which it is a party if he finds the strike