

was illegal. Before making his adjudication, the Judge may hold a hearing at which the employer and the employees may be represented and procure the attendance of witnesses.

Amendments to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* provide that compensation for disability is to be computed on the basis of 75 p.c. of average earnings instead of 70 p.c. The maximum annual earnings on which compensation is based are increased from \$3,600 to \$4,000 a year. A number of new groups are brought under the Act including members of municipal fire brigades, domestic servants (on an optional basis), and independent operators and their dependants (on an elective basis).

Amendments made to the *Public Works Fair Wages and Conditions of Employment Act*, passed in 1951, require that all persons employed in the execution of a contract with the provincial government must be paid "fair wages" and must not work longer than eight hours a day and 44 hours a week. If a contractor fails to pay the proper wages, an employee may make a claim to the Minister of Labour rather than, as formerly, to the Minister of the contracting department.

Regulation of Wages and Hours of Labour under Industrial Standards Legislation and the Quebec Agreement Act.—The Industrial Standards Acts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, and the Alberta Labour Act provide that wages and hours agreed upon at a conference of representatives of employers and employees, called by the Minister of Labour or his representative, may, by Order in Council, be made legally binding on the industry in the area concerned. The Nova Scotia Act applies only to construction work at Halifax, Dartmouth, and Sydney.

In *Nova Scotia*, 12 schedules of hours and wages for individual building trades were in force in 1953: 11 renewals of previous schedules and one new schedule governing plumbers rates at Sydney. In *New Brunswick*, five schedules for individual building trades were in force in 1953. One schedule governing painters at Saint John expired in December 1952.

In *Quebec*, under the *Collective Agreement Act*, hours and wages and also apprenticeship, vacations with pay and family allowances provisions established by a collective agreement voluntarily entered into by employers and unions or groups of employees may be made legally binding by Order in Council on all employers and employees in the industry in the district covered by the Agreement, if the parties are sufficiently representative of the industry. At Mar. 31, 1953, 102 agreements, covering 220,549 workers and 21,392 employers, had been generalized to apply either throughout the Province or to a certain district. The agreements in force throughout the Province apply to the following industries: building materials, the manufacture of women's cloaks and suits, dresses, millinery, the manufacture of men's and boys' clothing, men's and boys' hats and caps, men's and boys' shirts, ladies handbags, fine gloves and work gloves, shoes, furniture, paint, corrugated and uncorrugated paper boxes, the tanning industry, elevator construction, and the structural-iron erection industry. Other agreements concern industries in particular cities or parts of the Province including all building trades and printing trades in large urban centres and many rural districts.

In *Ontario*, there were 145 wages and hours schedules in force at Mar. 31, 1953, affecting brewery workers, cloakmakers, the men's and boys' clothing industry, men's and boys' hats and caps, the hard furniture industry, and millinery workers.