

Amendments to the *Minimum Wage Act* and the *Annual Holidays Act* lay down new requirements with respect to an employee who has been given notice of termination of employment. For the period of notice the employee must be paid the sum which he earned during that week or a week's normal wages exclusive of overtime, whichever is greater. Pay in lieu of notice is to be a sum equivalent to normal wages. An employee may not be required or permitted to take his annual holiday during the notice period and payment of holiday pay is not to be deemed wages in lieu of notice.

The *Wages Recovery Act* was amended to provide for the collection of unpaid wages by the Department of Labour on behalf of an employee without recourse to court action. When an inspector of the Department finds wages owing to an employee an information will not be laid if the employer pays the required amount to the Deputy Minister for transmittal to the employee within two days.

Alberta.—A new *Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act* provides that a steam plant carrying a working pressure of 20 lb. p.s.i. or more must be operated under the general supervision of a person holding a valid certificate qualifying him to act as chief steam engineer of the plant and must be under the continuous supervision of a person holding a certificate qualifying him to act as shift engineer. Four classes of engineer certificates, a fireman certificate and a pressure vessel welder certificate are now provided for, as well as special and temporary certificates. A new feature of the Act is the provision for the appointment of a Board of Advisers consisting of five members to report to and advise the Minister of Labour regarding the formulation of regulations and the administration of the Act generally.

A new *Gas Protection Act* applies to domestic installations and equipment but not to public utilities. The actual standards to be followed are to be set out in regulations. The regulations may prescribe plans and specifications governing the design and construction of equipment, prohibit the advertising, sale and use of any specified equipment until it has been inspected and approved, and indicate the precautions to be taken in the sale of such equipment.

A new *Coal Mines Regulation Act* replaces an Act of 1945 and revises the safety measures of the Act in accordance with mining practices.

British Columbia.—The *Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act*, which replaced an Act of 1935, provides for the certification of tradesmen as well as the training of apprentices.

Employment of persons under 21 years of age in a designated trade is prohibited except under contract of apprenticeship (for which the minimum age is 15 years) or written permit from the Minister of Labour. The Act makes the customary provision for a provincial apprenticeship committee to advise the Minister and for supervision of the apprenticeship system by a director of apprenticeship. The director may, on the written application of an employer and prospective apprentice, approve and register an apprenticeship contract in a trade other than a designated trade.

The trades in which certification may be obtained will be designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Examining boards are to be appointed to conduct examinations, subject to the standards of proficiency and procedures laid down by regulations. To obtain a certificate of proficiency a tradesman must be able to qualify in examination and to submit proof of having completed the requisite period of practical training.

The *Boilers and Pressure-Vessel Act* was amended to bring refrigeration plants within the scope of the Act. It is now provided that the inspection certificate or interim certificate will serve as registration. A new provision for an interim certificate permits the operation of a boiler until an inspection can be made. The Chief Inspector was given authority to require the owner or operator to provide safety appliances or to make any repairs, modifications or additions which he considers necessary in the interests of safety. Before repairs are undertaken the approval of an inspector must be obtained and the boiler or pressure-vessel may not again be put into operation until the inspector is satisfied that it may be operated safely.