

dispute have been submitted for the report of a Board of Conciliation and Investigation, consisting of three members, two appointed by the Minister of Labour on the recommendation of the respective parties to the dispute, the third on the recommendation of the first two, or if they fail to agree, by the Minister himself. After their report has been made, either of the parties to the dispute may reject it and declare a strike or lockout, which, however, is likely to involve the loss of the sympathy and support of the general public. The effect has been to diminish greatly the number of strikes and lockouts in such industries. On the application of the parties to the dispute, the machinery of the Act may be extended to other industries. A review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act from its enactment in March, 1907, to the end of the fiscal year 1921, shows that in the fourteen years, 509 applications were received for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation, as a result of which 370 boards were established. In all but 33 cases strikes (or lockouts) were averted or ended. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1921, 63 applications for the establishment of boards of conciliation and investigation were received, and 37 boards were established. Strikes (or lockouts) were averted in all but six cases.

Fair Wages Branch.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation of schedules of minimum wage rates, which are inserted in Dominion Government contracts, and must be adhered to by contractors in the execution of the respective works. The number of fair wages schedules prepared since the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolution in 1900 up to the end of the calendar year 1921 is 3,930, of which 26 were prepared during the year 1921.

Fair wage conditions are also inserted in contracts for the manufacture of certain classes of government supplies, and in contracts for all railway construction to which the Dominion Government has granted financial aid, either by way of subsidy or guarantee.

The Department of Labour is also frequently consulted by other departments of the Government regarding the wage rates to be observed in connection with work undertaken on the day labour plan.

Labour Legislation.—Much attention is devoted to labour legislation. Information as to new laws enacted by the Dominion and the Provinces is kept up to date, while notes or articles regarding their provisions are published in the "Labour Gazette." Since 1917, the Department has published annual reports containing the text of Canadian labour laws enacted during the year, together with an introduction summarizing this legislation under subject headings. These reports are based on a consolidation of Dominion and Provincial labour legislation as existing at the end of 1915, which was made from the most recent Revised Statutes and the subsequent annual volumes of statutes up to 1915 and which formed the Department's report on labour legislation for 1915. Reports on the labour