of mineral produced by them, they shall be paid according to the weight of such mineral, which is to be weighed as near the entrance to the pit mouth as is practicable. These three Acts and the Mines Act of Saskatchewan contain sections permitting the employees thus paid to station at their own expense a representative called the check-weigher at the place appointed for the weighing of the mineral. In Nova Scotia the check-weigher is elected by ballot at a meeting of the employees interested, and cannot hold office for more than one year unless re-elected. The British Columbia law does not demand any special qualifications for this position, but the other provinces require that candidates should be working miners with at least three years' experience. In Saskatchewan and Alberta appointees must be residents of the province, and in Nova Scotia they must have certificates and at the time of their appointment be employed in the colliery in which they are to serve. In all cases the check-weigher must be given every facility for the proper discharge of his duties, and Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta direct the owner, agent or manager of the mine to provide him with a shelter from the weather and a desk at which to write. The laws of these provinces forbid the check-weigher to impede in any way the working of the mine, or to interfere with the weighing. There need be no delay on account of his absence. If he is guilty of misconduct, the owner, agent or manager of a mine may, on sufficient evidence, have him removed by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, and another check-weigher may be elected or appointed in his place. In Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia the owner, agent or manager of the mine may, at the request of the majority of the miners, make a "pro rata" deduction from the wages of each miner sufficient to meet the wages of the check-weigher, and may then pay him in the same manner as the other employees. Wherever in these four provinces the workmen are paid by order of the Minister or by mutual consent, otherwise than according to the amount of mineral produced by them, they may at their own expense employ one or more persons to check the correctness of the measurements or method according to which payment is made, and the provisions in the Act applying to check-weighers shall apply to such persons.

The Mining Act of Alberta and the Coal Mines Regulation Acts of Nova Scotia and British Columbia permit the owner, agent or manager of any mine to agree with his employees that deductions be made in respect of stones and other material, such deductions to be determined by mutual agreement or by some person or persons appointed by the employers and employees for the purpose. In Nova Scotia and Alberta provision is made that where the representatives of the two parties fail to agree, they or the Minister or Commissioner, may choose a third person to act with them, and a decision of the majority of the three shall be final. In a mine where employers and employees have failed to appoint anyone to determine deductions, the Minister or Commissioner may appoint some person on their behalf.

With regard to other deductions the Alberta law allows any workman to authorize the employer in writing to apply the whole or part of the wages due him to the payment of any debt owing by such workman. The employer may also retain sums due by any employee for coal, oil, rent or other supplies. The Coal Mines Act of Nova Scotia adds to this list check-weighers' and doctors' fees, church, hospital and society dues, but forbids deductions for school or other rates, except with the written consent of the workman. This prohibition appears also in the Metalliferous Mines Act of this province and is the only reference to deductions from wages found therein.

In 1919, British Columbia passed an amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act providing for the appointment of a Board to fix minimum wages for coal miners. The Board consists of one representative each of employers and employees, with the Chief Inspector of Mines as Chairman.

Ontario, the Yukon, both Mining Acts of British Columbia, and the Metalliferous Mines Act of Nova Scotia, forbid the payment of wages in any tavern or place where liquor is sold. The Quebec Act does not contain any reference to this subject, but prohibits the sale of liquor within a radius of seven miles of any mine, and gives the Inspector of Mines control of all licenses in his district. This province also forbids the cashing of pay cheques in any tavern. In many provinces the clauses relating to this subject have been repealed by the temperance laws passed during the last few years. This has been the case in both Alberta and Saskatchewan where the prohibition of payment of wages on licensed premises and cashing of pay cheques in hotels was contained in the Liquor License Acts repealed in 1918 and 1917 respectively. The Ontario Temperance Act of 1916 repealed the Liquor License Act of that province which prohibited the cashing of pay cheques in hotels and the sale of intoxicants within six miles of any mine. Nova Scotia omitted from the 1918 Coal Mines Act the clause which in the old law forbade the payment of miners in hotels, etc. This was presumably done owing to the passing of the Temperance Act of that year, which is a prohibition measure.

In Ontario and the Yukon every person who performs labour for wages in connection with any mine mining claim or mining lands, has a lien thereon. The other provinces have no legislation on this subject.

Certificates.

The Coal Mines Regulation Acts of Nova Scotia and British Columbia, and the Mines Acts of Alberta and Saskatchewan contain sections relating to the examination and licensing of workmen.

In Saskatchewan examinations are held from time to time by an inspector of mines, while in the other three provinces they are conducted by a Board of examiners. The Nova Scotia Board consists of the Inspector of Mines with one mining and one mechanical engineer. In Alberta two managers and two working miners, and in British Columbia one representative each of the coal miners and the mine owners act with the Chief Inspector in conducting examinations for certificates.

There is considerable difference in the laws of these four provinces with regard to the classes of workmen for whom certificates are required and the qualifications demanded. Nova Scotia requires certificates of competency for a manager, underground manager, overman, mine examiner and stationary engineer; British Columbia for a manager, overman, shift boss, fire boss, shotlighter, and mine surveyor, and Alberta for a manager, overman and mine examiner. In Nova Scotia a candidate for manager, underground manager, or overman must be a British subject at least 21 years of age, with four years' underground working experience, part of which must