

realization and distribution of moneys recovered thereon.

LABOR, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.

For the purpose of establishing a tribunal for the settlement of disputes between employers and employees and for the providing of means leading to the cultivation and maintenance of better relations between employers and their employees, and also, for the providing of some efficient method for the prevention of strikes and other labor troubles there was passed as a government measure during the session of 1894 an act intitled The Labor Conciliation and Arbitration act, 1894, consolidated as Chapter 109 of the Revised Statutes, 1897. The act provides in the first place for the appointment of the provincial secretary as commissioner, and for the appointment should occasion render it necessary of a deputy commissioner. The functions of the commissioner and his deputy are to receive and record claims in respect of labor disputes, to convene councils of conciliation and to keep a complete record of proceedings had under

the act. Councils of conciliation consist of four members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor upon the nomination of the disputants and the procedure to be adopted by and before these councils is set forth in the act. Should the councils of conciliation be unable to effect a settlement of any matter brought before it, they report to that effect to the commissioner, and the matter then goes before a council of arbitration of three members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in manner prescribed by the act. This council of arbitration conducts its proceedings as in open court but no party to any dispute before it is allowed to be represented by any counsel, attorney or paid agent. Within seven days after the completion of hearing the council renders its award, which is published in the British Columbia Gazette, and which is so far as the parties concerned have agreed to be bound thereby, may be made a rule of the Supreme court, having thereupon the force of a judgment of the court binding upon and enforceable against all persons affected thereby.