

In Canada, as Mr. Brown told you, there was such a law in seven provinces out of nine. In Prince Edward Island, which is not at all an industrial province, there has, so far as I know, been no suggestion of a law of this kind. In New Brunswick a Commission was appointed some time ago which I know has studied this problem, because we have had correspondence with them. I have, however, heard of no report they have issued. The other seven provinces have such a law, although Nova Scotia has not put its law into effective operation as yet. In Quebec the Minimum Wage Law is in operation, and I understand they hope to issue their first order before long. In the other provinces the law has been at work for several years. I may say that I believe in these other provinces, there is the same general support from employers and employees as we have found in Manitoba and Ontario.

In Canada, we have followed the lead of the United States, and have applied these laws only to women and girls, although in some of the States of the United States, they are applying them to male minors, those under 18. In none of the States have they applied to adult males. This is universal in Canada, with the recent exception that British Columbia has passed a law in which they have not included men within the precincts of the statute which covers female employees, but have drafted a separate law. I have not heard that they have as yet issued an order. This breaks from the general experience of the world. In New Zealand, and in Victoria—for the province of Victoria in Australia, was the laboratory where this matter was wrought out, and where it was studied by Commissions from many parts of the world before it spread—there was a period from 1896 to about 1910, that this province of Victoria was working this out. It was genuinely a popular movement, rather than a labour movement or a capitalistic movement; that is, a movement that was directed to encourage employers and employees. The Labour Unions gave it at first, rather hesitant support; the employers being still more hesitant, and the forces behind it being public approval of that sentiment, which I mentioned at first, of the right to live from one's work. The reason why the United States has applied it only to women, is, I believe, twofold; in the first place, the American Federation of Labour, the organization which represents for the most part, organized labour within the United States, directly opposed its application to men, while supporting its application to women and to minors, both boys and girls; there being the natural idea that self help was better for the male adult than State help, and the fear that legislation might weaken the strength of the Unions. Another reason was, I believe, their dread of what the Supreme Court of the United States might do about it, a trouble which we have not had to face in Canada. We, in this principle of social legislation, as in a number of others have followed the example of the United States, rather than the example of parts of the British Empire. Indeed, these things seem to be routed to us through the United States, so the Workmen's Compensation came and the Minimum Wage and there is every indication that other forms of social legislation are travelling the same route.

In New Zealand and Australia, and all these provinces of Great Britain, and generally through Europe, where, in one form or another, Minimum Wage Laws generally prevail—and I understand also in the Union of South Africa—the Minimum Wage Laws apply as readily to men's wages as to women's, the idea being that the wages need protection, rather than the female or male should get the protection. Of course, it is obvious that female workers are much less organized than male workers. We have in Canada some 260,000 or 270,000 members of trades unions. That is less than ten per cent of those who are gainfully employed in the Dominion of Canada. There are no definite figures as to how many of these trade unionists are females, but the proportion is quite small. There seems to be no reason, sir, why if this principle is good for