

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INCREASES

**ALLOWANCES BETTERED:** Amendments were made in 1953 to Workmen's Compensation Laws in seven provinces, but the most significant changes were in Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan, according to the 1953 edition of the Department of Labour publication "Workmen's Compensation in Canada, A Comparison of Provincial Laws".

In Manitoba, following a review of the Act by a legislative committee, the Legislature directed that compensation for disability should be based on 70 per cent of the workman's average earnings, instead of 66 2/3 per cent. Further, it was provided that all widows who were receiving a monthly pension of less than \$50.00 should have their pension brought up to the present level of \$50.00 a month, regardless of the date of the accident or of the award of compensation. In enacting this provision, Manitoba followed the example set by the Alberta Legislature in 1952.

### PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Twenty dollars a month, instead of \$12.00 was fixed as the monthly allowance for a dependent child under 16 and \$30.00, instead of \$20.00, for an orphan. The burial allowance was raised from \$150.00 to \$200.00 and the Board given discretion to pay full expenses of transporting a workman's body within the Province, and part of the expenses when it is necessary to move the body into or out of the Province.

The Board was authorized to spend a definite sum - \$10,000 a year - for vocational training of injured workmen.

The Act was further amended to provide for the appointment of an officer of the Department of Labour to assist an injured workman at his request when he is not satisfied with the

disposition of his claim and wishes it to be re-opened and reviewed by the Board.

In Nova Scotia, the waiting period was reduced from seven to five days. The pension for a dependent child was increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a month and from \$25.00 to \$30.00 for an orphan and increases were made applicable to children in receipt of compensation on May 1, 1953, as well as to children who become eligible for compensation after that date. The minimum payment for temporary total disability was increased from \$12.50 per week or full earnings, if less, to \$15.00 a week or earnings.

### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

In Ontario, the monthly allowance to a widow was raised from \$50.00 to \$75.00. The allowance to each child under 16 was increased from \$12.00 to \$25.00 a month, and that to an orphan child from \$20.00 to \$35.00. These increases apply only to accidents happening after April 2, 1953. Other amendments permit coverage of Ontario workmen of an employer whose business is in Ontario while they are employed outside the Province for a longer period than six months (the previous limit allowed), and provide for the payment of compensation for accidents occurring outside the Province on an aircraft, truck or bus where employment is necessarily both inside and outside the province.

In Saskatchewan, the funeral allowance was increased from \$175.00 to \$250.00, and the Board was authorized to pay up to \$100.00 for transportation of the workman's body. The Board was also authorized to pay compensation for a recurring disability on the basis of the workman's present-day earnings if they are higher than his earnings were at the time of his original injury.

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Canadian production of primary silver, primary lead and primary and refined zinc were all higher last year than in 1952, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Output of silver amounted to 28,330,251 fine ounces, 3,108,024 or 12% more than in 1952 and 5,204,426 or 22.5% more than in 1951. Primary lead output totalled 195,791 tons, 26,949 or 16% more than in the preceding year. Output of primary zinc was up about 8% to 400,041 tons from 371,802 in 1952, with increased production in all months except July and December.

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Amalgamations reduced the number of telephone systems by 16 to 2,888 in 1952, of which 78% were co-operatively owned systems, principally rural lines in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES:** The extension to diplomatic representatives of the Commonwealth countries of the traditional immunities enjoyed by representatives of foreign states is proposed in a bill introduced in the House of Commons on March 12 by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. W.E. Harris, for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Bill was read the first time.

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Jam production reached 80,383,888 lbs. last year, 10,864,387 or 17% more than in 1952, while output of jellies was 5,835,469 lbs., up 851,357 or 17%

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Chocolate bar output rose 7% last year to 591,988,668 or more than 39 bars per capita.