

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION REVIEW: The Minister of Labour, Mr. Mitchell, announced on January 23 publication of the 1949 edition of "Workmen's Compensation in Canada, A Comparison of Provincial Laws".

This bulletin was prepared by the Legislation Branch of the Department of Labour and shows the legislative changes made in 1949, the Minister explained. These changes include the enactment of a new Workmen's Compensation Act in Prince Edward Island, effective July 1, 1949, and amendments to the Acts of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The pamphlet contains a summary of the Newfoundland Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that all Canadian Provinces now had a law that provided compensation for industrial accidents, but that the Newfoundland Act was unlike that of the other Provinces in that it makes employers individually liable for injuries to their workmen occurring in the course of employment. In the other Provinces, the statute is of the collective liability type.

The pamphlet shows that under the Prince Edward Island Act, benefits for disability are two-thirds of earnings and the maximum earnings on which compensation is reckoned are \$2,500 a year. A widow is entitled to receive \$40 a month, with \$10 a month for each child under 16.

Provision was made for the payment of increased amounts of compensation in cases of total disability in Saskatchewan. Children's benefits were raised in Nova Scotia, and the maximum annual earnings on which compensation is reckoned were raised from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Effective January 1, 1950, in Ontario, the basic rate of compensation for disability was increased from 66 2/3 to 75 per cent of average earnings, and the maximum yearly earnings on which compensation is reckoned from \$2,500 to \$3,000. By an amendment effective from July 1, 1948, the monthly compensation payable in death cases, exclusive of burial expenses and the lump sum of \$100, may not exceed the workman's average earnings, instead of two-thirds of such earnings, as formerly. Where the total sum payable would exceed average earnings, the compensation must be reduced but the reduction is not to affect the payment of \$50 to a widow, with \$12 to each child or \$20 to each orphan child, unless the total benefits to such dependents exceed \$100 a month.

In British Columbia, the list of industrial diseases to be compensated was greatly extended.

CARLOADINGS: Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended January 14 amounted to 65,729 cars, up from the preceding week's total of 54,498 cars, but down 9,716 or 12.9 per cent from last year's corresponding total of 75,445 cars.

RETAIL SALES UP IN NOVEMBER: Canada's retail trade in November showed a small rise of two per cent in dollar volume over the corresponding month of 1948, continuing the moderate rate of advance shown in the October figures which rose by a similar percentage. The November gain compares with an average increase of 6.5 per cent in the first 10 months of the year. Sales in November were valued at \$661,000,000 as compared with \$697,000,000 in October and \$650,000,000 in November, 1948.

There were increased sales reported in 12 trades and declines in nine as compared with November, 1948. With few exceptions, the percentage changes fell within a narrow margin of the overall increase of two per cent for all trades. Largest increases were those of 15 per cent for coal and wood yards, 12 per cent for shoe stores, and nine per cent for garages and filling stations.

Sales of motor vehicle dealers were practically unchanged in November from the previous year, a result which contrasts with the large gains recorded throughout the earlier part of 1949. Shipments of motor vehicles to dealers fell off during the month due in part to strikes affecting motor vehicle production and there was slowing of production in some plants for assembly-line changeover.

EXERCISE "SWEETBRIAR": Familiar newspaper expressions of the Second World War--"blitzkrieg," "lightning warfare" and their ilk, are expected to be strangely missing from the despatches of news correspondents covering the joint Canada-U.S. Exercise "Sweetbriar" in the Yukon and Alaska next month. Nor will "sitzkrieg" be entirely in order, although some half-frozen reporter may wistfully recall the expression as he keeps in continual motion to avoid freezing to death, an Army news release reports.

There are no "lightning" assaults or counterattacks, northern experts point out, when the thermometer reaches 40 or 50 below zero. At that temperature a man must devote almost all his energies to keeping alive, and if he hasn't learned his lessons in the art of cold-weather living the chances are that Nature will get him before the enemy does.

What happens when the temperature starts plummeting? Well, ordinary diesel oil begins to solidify at 30 below. Mercury thermometers freeze at 38 below and storage batteries lose more than half their power at low temperatures. A man literally can freeze his lungs by gulping too much air at minus forty. Rubber tires freeze solid and crack. Engines won't start. Drinking water freezes in a few moments. Instruments with delicate moving parts often "freeze" because of the contraction properties of different metals. Steel becomes brittle and snaps or shatters. Food rations freeze so solid that almost everything must be heated in the field. To keep warm a man must wear such