

Coal Mines Act to British Columbia authorize any inspector to order immediate cessation of work and the departure of all persons from any mine or part of a mine which he considers unsafe, or to direct work to be carried on in such place with any precautions he may deem necessary. The British Columbia Coal Mines Act, the Metalliferous Mines Act of Nova Scotia and the Saskatchewan and Alberta laws provide that, in case of disagreement following such notice, the matter shall be arbitrated by one representative of each of the interested parties and an umpire. In British Columbia this third member of the Board is chosen by the other two, while in Alberta and Saskatchewan a judge acts in that capacity. The Nova Scotia Act names the Commissioner of Mines as umpire.

The Coal Mines Act of British Columbia empowers the inspector on his own initiative, or on written application of any three miners, to examine any employee of a mine in order to ascertain whether he is physically and mentally capable of performing his duties, and if he finds that the incapacity of any workman impairs the efficient working of the mine or endangers the safety of the other persons employed, he may order his removal.

Both Mining Acts of Nova Scotia, the Coal Mines Act of British Columbia and the mining laws of Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon permit the workmen to appoint one or more competent inspectors to examine thoroughly the mine on their behalf and such inspectors must be allowed every facility for the carrying out of their duties.

Ventilation and Inspection.

All the Mines Acts except that of Quebec require that every mine shall have adequate ventilation. Saskatchewan fixes a standard of 100 cubic feet and Alberta 200 cubic feet for each person and animal, while the Coal Mines Act of British Columbia demands 100 cubic feet for each man and 300 for each animal. All air must travel free of stagnant water, stables and old workings. The inspector may, if necessary, direct that more air be supplied, and in this event the British Columbia law requires him to post a notice at the mouth of the mine stating the quantity of air which is necessary for health and safety. The Ontario law provides that where the ventilating current is not sufficient, mechanical appliances must be installed and operated, while the Coal Mines Act of Nova Scotia provides for the use of brattice where the natural air current does not suffice to keep working places free of all inflammable or noxious gases. All cross cuts made for width and height between the openings which they connect. The Coal Mines Act of British Columbia directs that where ventilation is provided by a mechanical contrivance the apparatus must be so placed that it will be uninjured by an explosion. This Act and the Saskatchewan and Alberta laws make provision for the division of each mine into districts or splits of not more than 70 men, each district being supplied with its separate current of fresh air, and in the two former provinces every place must be bratticed up to within four yards of the face. In British Columbia and Alberta these rules apply to all mines, but in Saskatchewan they need not be complied with where safety lamps are not necessarily used. In such mines, however, narrow working places must not be driven so far ahead of ventilation that the air becomes visibly foul, and in no case more than 40 yards.

Examination of all working places in a mine is pro-

vided for in the Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan and in both Mining Acts of Nova Scotia and British Columbia. The Yukon law and those governing metalliferous mines in Nova Scotia and British Columbia state that all working places must be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least one in every 24 hours, and the British Columbia Act requires the examiner to make a report which is recorded in a book kept for the purpose. The Coal Mines Act of Nova Scotia and British Columbia and the Saskatchewan and Alberta laws make provision for the appointment of stations at the entrance to the mine or to any part of it, and all portions of the mine beyond such stations must be examined before the workmen are permitted to enter. This inspection is to take place at least once in every 24 hours and in British Columbia and Saskatchewan immediately before the commencement of work. The Nova Scotia and Alberta laws stipulate that it must be made within three and four hours respectively of the time the workmen enter the mine. In all cases the examiner must make a report which is recorded in a book. In Alberta and British Columbia a copy of such report must be posted immediately in a conspicuous place, while the other two provinces stipulate that the book bearing the record of examinations shall be open to employees at all reasonable times. The British Columbia law and those of Alberta and Saskatchewan make provision for a more frequent examination of any mine where inflammable gas has been found at any time during the preceding 12 months. If at the time of any examination dangerous gas is found to be present in any mine, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon authorize the withdrawal of all workmen until the danger is over.

Health of Employees in Mining Camps.

The question of health of employees in mining camps is in every case dealt with by the Public Health Acts, and all parts of Canada except the Yukon have laws on the subject. In Nova Scotia no person may establish, conduct or maintain a camp without a permit from the Medical Health Officer to the effect that its sanitary conditions are satisfactory. The Superior Board of Health of Quebec may by by-law require the employment of duly qualified practising physicians by proprietors of mining camps employing 25 or more men. In Ontario and British Columbia employers in camps may by regulation be required to retain the services of a qualified medical practitioner, and in addition to provide permanent or temporary hospitals. Houses and premises for the accommodation of workmen are subject to inspection, and the British Columbia law further empowers the inspector to visit all camps in his district during the months of April and May in each year to examine the sanitary conditions and the water supply. The Public Health Act of Alberta provides for the sanitary control of all public places and all houses, temporary or permanent, and regulations covering mining camps have been issued thereunder. The Provincial Board of Health of Manitoba and the Commissioner of Saskatchewan are empowered to make regulations relating to mining camps. Although no mining act appears on the statute books of New Brunswick, the Public Health Act of 1918 protects the health of employees in mining camps, making provision for regulations regarding the inspection of all houses and places connected therewith, and for the erection of permanent or temporary hospitals and the services of duly qualified physicians. A 1919 amendment requires special precautions to be taken against smallpox.