

it would in some cases cause unnecessary delay and expense. In our opinion the person who is appointed to preside during the absence of the judge of such an important court as the Exchequer Court should be a functionary whose decisions should be equipollent with those of the judge whose place he fills. There is an obvious impropriety in providing for the business of the court in question upon a footing which will, for a period which may possibly extend over several months, expose litigants to the risk of being saddled with the expense of an unnecessary appeal. It may well be described as being especially inopportune at the present time, when legal reforms are being so much discussed, and when the lay press is clamouring for a reduction in the number of appeals now allowed by our existing system of judicature.

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*THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT,  
1907.*

*REX v. McGUIRE.*

The Act above referred to is the most recent, and certainly not the least important of the statutes passed by the Dominion Parliament with the praiseworthy object of promoting the cause of peace in the constantly recurring conflict between capital and labour, and of removing or alleviating the many evils that follow in its train. It may not be without interest to refer briefly to the previous legislation passed with a similar object, especially as the Act now in question owes its origin to defects which were found to exist in the earlier statutes, and to interfere materially with the attainment of the end which they had in view. The principal measures of this kind are the Conciliation Act, 1900, and the Railway Labour Disputes Act, 1903, both of which are now incorporated in the Conciliation and Labour Act, R.S.C. 1906, c. 96.

It is unnecessary for our present purpose to refer to the provisions of the Act of 1903, further than to say that it introduced to a limited extent the element of compulsion which was