

Questions

Of the total amount of \$429,168, \$92,488 is due to overpayments arising from birth date errors made in respect to children registered from 1945 to date. This includes all the children up to sixteen years of age who were registered in 1945, prior to the first payments of family allowances, as well as all children registered from July, 1945, to October 31, 1949, throughout Canada.

It is a matter of great interest to note, as has already been indicated, that of the payments made in 1948 and 1949 on behalf of children whose first payments of family allowances began in those years, total overpayments arising because of birth date errors amount to only \$163, all of which has been recovered. This would seem to be, on examination of family allowances administrations in other countries, a record of administrative achievement.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
—EMPLOYEES

Mr. Courtemanche:

1. How many persons were in the employ of the Department of National Health and Welfare in 1939?
2. How many persons are in the employ of the said department at present?

Mr. Martin:

1. The Department of National Health and Welfare was established in 1944.
2. As at October 31, 1949—2,716 (excluding casuals, 137).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS—FAIR WAGE
PROVISIONS

Mr. Knowles:

1. Do contracts let by the federal government include any fair wage provisions?
2. If so, what are the terms of such provisions?
3. Are there any kinds or classes of contracts exempt from such provisions? If so, what kinds or classes?
4. To what extent do provincial fair wage laws and other provincial legislation apply to employers carrying out federal government contracts?

Mr. Mitchell:

1. Yes. The Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935, requires the inclusion of fair wage provisions in every contract made with the government of Canada for construction, remodelling, repair or demolition of any work.

Order in council P.C. 1206 of June 7, 1922 as amended, recently consolidated by order in council P.C. 5547, November 3, 1949, requires that labour conditions shall be observed by the department or departments concerned in connection with all contracts made on behalf of the government of Canada for the construction or remodelling of public buildings of all kinds, railways, canals, roads, bridges, locks, dry docks, elevators,

harbours, piers, wharves, lighthouses, and other works for the improvement and safety of transportation and navigation; rifle ranges, fortifications, and other works of defence; dams, hydraulic works, slides, piers, booms, and other works for facilitating the transmission of timber, and all other works and properties constructed or remodelled for the government of Canada; also that the like conditions shall, as far as practicable, be observed by the department or departments of Canada, in connection with all agreements made by the government involving the grant of dominion public funds in the form of subsidy, advance, loan, or guarantee for any of the purposes mentioned.

Labour conditions are also observed by the department or departments concerned in connection with all contracts for the manufacture and supply to the government of Canada of fittings for public buildings; harness, saddlery, clothing, and other outfit for the military and naval forces; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; letter carriers, and other government officers and employees; mail bags, letter boxes, and other postal stores.

2. These are set out in the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, 1935 and order in council P.C. 5547 of November 3, 1949.

3. Any kind of contract not specified in the answer to part 1.

4. Except as to the wages and conditions of employment stipulated in the federal fair wages and hours of labour legislation, employers carrying out federal government contracts are not exempted from the operation of applicable provincial legislation.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT—RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CARTELS

Mr. Coldwell:

What action, if any, has been taken on each of the recommendations contained in the report "Canada and International Cartels", by the commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act in 1945?

Mr. Garson:

- A. The recommendations made in the report "Canada and International Cartels" are set out in pages 66 to 69, and may be summarized as follows:

1. Particular attention should be given by the combines investigation commission to restrictive agreements based on patents.

The following action has been taken in this field: The Combines Investigation Act was amended in 1946 to give powers to the exchequer court to issue remedial orders in cases of use of patents or trade marks unduly to limit production or restrain or injure