

disputes represented approximately 489,775 working days. The greatest number of disputes occurred in the building trades, being 29 in number; there were 21 disputes in the metal trades, 14 in the transport and 13 in the mining industries. Of the total number of disputes 55 were occasioned solely by a demand for increased wages, while the question of wages was either the sole or contributory cause in 82 disputes. There were 13 disputes due to the refusal of employees to work with particular persons, 13 in which a recognition of the union was demanded and three against the employment of non-unionists. Of the 138 disputes definite settlements were reached in 130 cases; 67 of these were brought about by direct negotiations between the parties concerned and three by arbitration. Four disputes were settled by conciliation, three through the friendly intervention of the Department of Labour under the Conciliation Act and one through the mediation of the Ministerial Association of Winnipeg.

The coal miners strike at Lethbridge. The most serious dispute of the year was that of the coal miners at Lethbridge, Alberta, which continued as stated above from March until December. The strike had seriously reduced the output of coal available for consumption in the West, and large portions of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were menaced with a severe fuel famine, while a general derangement threatened the transportation facilities and industrial enterprises of the country. The dispute was fortunately terminated by the intervention, at the request of the Premier of Saskatchewan, of Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King, the Deputy Minister of Labour, and work was resumed in time to avert the most serious aspects of the fuel famine.

Intervention of the Militia. Other serious disputes were those of sawmill hands at Buckingham, Quebec, in September, and street railway strikers at Hamilton and Winnipeg. In connection with each of these the Militia was called out to assist the municipal authorities. In the case of the strike at Buckingham there was a serious loss of life in consequence of a riot occurring in connection with the dispute. Correspondence laid on the table of the House of Commons with regard to the Buckingham strike showed that the Department of Labour had, at the request of the employees, offered its good offices for the purpose of effecting a settlement, but these had been refused by the employing firm.