

numbered approximately 613,986 in 1907, compared with 490,400 in 1906. Although the number of disputes, the number of work-people involved and the number of working days lost were greater than in 1906, none of the disputes were so serious in their results as were certain of those which occurred during 1906. No rioting or loss of life was reported, and no privations were felt by the general public in any way comparable with those undergone in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan owing to the coal shortage in 1906.

Coal strikes
in 1907.

A stoppage of works in the coal mines of Alberta and Eastern British Columbia from April 15 to May 6 involved 3,450 men and caused embarrassment to transportation and metalliferous mining interests through scarcity of fuel. At Springhill, Nova Scotia, a strike of about 1,250 coal miners continued from August 1 to October 31 causing a shortage of coal throughout the province.

Strike of
plumbers in
Toronto.

In Toronto building operations were impeded for many months by a general strike of plumbers, which began on May 15, involving about 104 firms and 500 employees. No definite settlement of this dispute was arrived at, but by the end of September it was reported that all but six important shops had come to terms with the men.

Industries
affected and
causes of
disputes.

As in 1906, the greatest number of disputes occurred in the building trades, viz., 45, as compared with 29 in 1906. Eighteen disputes occurred in the metal trades, 17 in the clothing trades and 14 in each of the transport and mining industries. April, May and June were the months of greatest industrial disturbance through trade disputes. Of the 144 disputes which began in 1907, 65 were occasioned solely by demands for higher wages, while the question of wages entered into 88 disputes either as a sole or contributory cause. In 11 disputes the only cause was a demand for shorter hours. Eighteen disputes were caused by the employment of non-unionists and seven by the discharge of employees.

Industrial
Disputes
Investigation
Act.

The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, the main provisions of which were summarized in the Year Book of 1906, was passed on March 22, 1907, coming immediately into operation. It has already had considerable influence in effecting reconciliations in disputes between employers and employees, which might otherwise have occasioned grave public inconvenience through strikes. From the date of its enactment until the end of the year, 31 applications were made for the appointment of Boards of Conciliation and Investigation under the act, some of these being under the special provision which authorizes the appointment of a Board in disputes other than those affecting public utilities. Boards were actually established in 22 cases. Of these the proceedings of four were unfinished at the end of the year. In 16 cases agreements were arrived at, and in the remaining two cases, which related to differences between the same disputants, a strike occurred and lasted for three months, but eventually