

69 disputes in 1908 43 were settled in favour of employers, 12 in favour of employees, nine were settled by compromise and the remaining five were either unsettled or the terms of settlement were not known at the close of the year.

Strike on
the Canadian
Pacific
Railway.

The two principal disputes of the year were a strike of machinists and carmen of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a strike of cotton mill hands which extended to many places in the province of Quebec. The dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and its employees arose out of the application by the company to the western lines of new rules affecting machinists and boiler makers. The findings of a board of conciliation, appointed under the Industrial Disputes Investigation act, 1907, were accepted by the company but not by the men, and on August 5 8,000 men in the mechanical and car departments of the company throughout the Dominion went out on strike until October 5, when the award of the conciliation board was accepted and the men resumed work.

Strike of
cotton oper-
atives in
Quebec.

The strike of cotton mill hands in Quebec, which commenced on May 4, was occasioned by a reduction of ten per cent in wages which the mills claimed was necessary to meet changed conditions in the cotton industry. At the end of May about 6,000 cotton-factory employees were idle. The strike lasted until June, when many of the strikers returned to work pending an inquiry into the cotton industry promised on behalf of the Dominion Government. On June 29 the Deputy Minister of Labour was appointed as commissioner to investigate and report upon the nature and causes of the disputes affecting the cotton trade in Canada. His report presented on September 15 states that the reduction of wages which led to the strike was an economic consequence of the general trade and financial depression which has affected the cotton industry in all parts of the world. It contains suggestions for the future preservation of industrial peace and suggests that the laws relating to the employment in cotton mills of women and children should be amended.

Industrial
Disputes
Investigation
act.

In 25 disputes boards of conciliation were appointed under the Industrial Disputes Investigation act 1907, and of these all but one—the previously mentioned dispute between the Canadian Pacific Railway and its mechanics—were settled without the occurrence of a strike or lockout. Four other disputes were under consideration by boards of conciliation at the end of the year. One of them which related to an industry not of a public utility was brought under the act by joint consent of the two parties interested.

Statistics of
mineral
production.

According to a preliminary report of the Department of Mines the total value of the mineral products of Canada in 1908 is estimated at \$87,323,849, as compared with \$86,842,765 in 1907. In the aggregate therefore the industry has more than held its own despite large decreases in the prices of metals. Had these remained at the same average prices in 1908 as in 1907 the