

Imports from Great Britain in 1909 were \$89,785,162 as compared with \$70,573,398 in 1908 and exports to Great Britain in 1909 were \$145,785,033 as compared with \$141,120,049 in 1908.

Industrial disputes of the year. The number of strikes and lockouts in 1909 was the same as in 1908, viz, 69, which is much less than in any previous year of which the Labour Department has record. Approximately the number of persons affected was 17,881 in 1909, 26,232 in 1908, 34,694 in 1907 and 26,014 in 1906. Working days lost numbered about 842,275 as against 708,194 in 1908, 613,986 in 1907 and 489,775 in 1906. The increase in loss of working days during 1909 was due in great measure to strikes of coal miners in Nova Scotia, Alberta and eastern British Columbia which affected thousands of miners for several months. Apart from these disputes there were none of serious importance during the year.

Strikes of coal miners. The strike of coal miners in Alberta and eastern British Columbia lasted from April 1 to June 30 when an agreement was signed following closely the findings of a board of conciliation and investigation appointed on May 15 under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act 1907. The dispute affected 2,100 men and 11 mines, and it caused the closing down of the British Columbia Copper Company's smelter and mines at Greenwood. Two strikes of coal miners occurred in Nova Scotia, one at Glace Bay on July 6, affecting 2,100 employees and the other at Springhill on August 10 affecting 1,700 employees, both disputes being connected with the question of the recognition of the United Mine Workers of America. At Glace Bay the Dominion Coal Company continued to work its mines with a diminished staff, and gradually filled the places of the strikers, many of whom sought employment elsewhere. At Springhill the mines of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company were closed until the end of the year, and there were also thrown out of work many of the company's railway employees, the crews of one tug and seven barges and a number of wharf hands and trimmers.

Industrial Disputes Investigation act. In 22 disputes boards of conciliation were appointed under the Industrial Disputes Investigation act 1907. In 18 cases the inquiry which was made by the board resulted either in a direct agreement between the parties, or in such an improvement of relations that it led to a settlement; in one of the other four cases the board's investigation proved of material value in securing a settlement.

Tuberculosis in Canada. The Dominion of Canada is taking an active share in the efforts that are being universally made to control tuberculosis, now becoming generally recognised as a preventable disease and, even when contracted, as curable under certain conditions.