

## LABOUR CONDITIONS IN 1912.

days. A strike of garment workers in Montreal, which occurred in June and lasted for nearly seven weeks, caused a loss to employees of about 143,500 working days, the number of employees thrown out of work being 4,500. Other serious disputes of the year were those of coal miners at Cumberland and Ladysmith and gold miners at Porcupine, Ont., both of which were left unterminated at the end of the year. A large number of strikes occurred in the building trades, some of which occasioned a considerable loss of time to employees, particularly those of carpenters at Winnipeg and Calgary. The majority of these, however, were strikes pending the arrangement of new schedules and were of comparatively short duration. The time lost through trade disputes during 1912 was approximately 1,099,208 working days, which number is slightly more than one half of the number lost during the previous year.

Of the strikes and lockouts which began during the year 1912, 66 occurred in Ontario and 24 in Quebec. Sixteen disputes took place in Saskatchewan, 13 in Alberta, 10 in British Columbia, seven in Manitoba, six in New Brunswick, and five in Nova Scotia, while one dispute, that of freight checkers and freight handlers on the Canadian Pacific Railway, affected men in more than one province. No strikes were reported to have taken place in Prince Edward Island during the year. The great majority of the disputes were concerned with demands for higher wages and in some cases also for shorter hours. Of the 150 disputes in existence during 1912, 59 were settled through negotiations between the parties concerned, one was settled by arbitration, and two were settled by conciliation. In fifteen cases the strikers were replaced, and in eleven other cases the work was resumed, some of the strikers' places being filled by other men. In ten disputes a resumption of work pending an investigation or a formulation of an agreement was made. In the same number work was resumed on the employers' terms. Nineteen disputes were either unsettled at the close of the year, or the method of their settlement was not reported.

**Wholesale Prices of Commodities in Canada.**—In 1910 the Labour Department published a Special Report by R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., on Wholesale Prices in Canada during the 20 years, 1890 to 1909, and this has since been followed by similar annual reports on the prices of 1910, 1911 and 1912. In these reports prices are measured by index numbers based upon the average prices of from 230 to 272 selected commodities in the period 1890 to 1899. The plan followed by the Department has involved the collection from the best available sources of the wholesale prices of a selected list of commodities during 23 years, the prices as a general rule being those of the first market day in each month at the principal markets of the articles quoted. The commodities selected have been divided into 13 general groups. Representing the average price of the commodities in the base-period by 100, the tables and diagrams published in the reports show the course of prices during the 23 years 1890-1912 for all the commodities combined, for each of the 13 groups and for separate commodities.