

L A B O U R.

May and June, in which latter period there were 94 changes reported to the Department of Labour, as compared with 81 in the corresponding period of 1912. Foreign trade showed a larger increase over the preceding year.

Labour Organization.—The total trades union membership reported at the end of 1913 was 175,799, the membership being comprised in 2,017 local branches of trade union organization of all types. The membership reported at the close of 1912 was 160,120 comprised in 1,883 branches. These figures represent an increase of 15,679 members and 134 branches for the year 1913. Of the total trades union membership for 1913, 148,856 is to be placed to the account of 101 international organizations which have 1,792 local branches in Canada.

Industrial Disputes.—A special report was issued by the Department of Labour relative to the strikes and lockouts which occurred in Canada during the period 1901-1912. The report showed a total of 1,319 strikes for this period, being an average of 110 annually. The 1,319 strikes were divided by provinces as follows: Nova Scotia, 76; Prince Edward Island, 2; New Brunswick, 56; Quebec, 280; Ontario, 607; Manitoba, 72; Saskatchewan, 24; Alberta, 76; British Columbia, 121; Interprovincial, 14. There were 319,880 employees concerned in these disputes. Time losses in strikes during the twelve years reached nearly 9,000,000 working days and would represent at \$2.50 a day an annual loss to the workers of about \$1,900,000, or a total estimated loss for the twelve years of between twenty-two and twenty-three million dollars. The approximate time losses by industries in the twelve years were as follows: Nova Scotia, 1,410,491 working days; Prince Edward Island, 819; New Brunswick, 113,583; Quebec, 1,065,551; Ontario, 1,576,295; Manitoba, 172,650; Saskatchewan, 23,384; Alberta, 304,726; British Columbia, 1,743,132; Interprovincial, 2,477,750. The longest strike recorded was that which began in the coal mines at Springhill, N.S., in August, 1909, and continued for 22 months, entailing a total time loss of 760,000 working days. A strike of 7,000 coal miners in eastern British Columbia and southern Alberta in 1911 lasted from April 1 to November 20 with a time loss of 1,390,000 days, a greater time loss than that of all the strikes in Canada in any preceding year. These two strikes alone caused a loss of 2,150,000 days, or nearly one-quarter of the total time losses from strikes in the twelve year period.

Causes of Strikes.—An analysis of the strikes according to causes shows that the wage question figured most prominently, the great majority of strikes having for their object an increase of wages. The report showed that this was also the cause of the heaviest time losses. The question of union recognition was also a frequent subject of dispute between employers and employees, and involved, especially in the later years, a large proportion of the time losses. A summary statement of time losses involved in the various classes of industries is given in Table 1.