

disappeared. In the remaining two cases the applications were under consideration by the Minister of Labour at the end of the fiscal year. The total number of employees affected by these 161 disputes was 222,817. There were 18 cases in which strikes were neither averted nor ended through the instrumentality of the Act. Of these 18 strikes 11 occurred in the mining industry, one in the operation of a railway, five in railway offices, shops and yards, and one in the operation of a street railway. Twenty applications were dealt with under the Act during the year ended March 31, 1914, and resulted in the establishment of seventeen Boards. In one case the dispute was adjusted prior to the establishment of a Board, and in the remaining two cases the applications were under consideration by the Minister at the end of the fiscal year. It is worthy of note that during this period procedure under the Act resulted in every case in the avoidance of the threatened cessation of work.

Fair Wages Branch.—The Fair Wages Branch of the Department of Labour is charged with the preparation of schedules of minimum wage rates which are inserted in Dominion Government contracts and must be adhered to by the contractors in the execution of the respective works. This branch of the work is based on a resolution of the House of Commons known as the Fair Wages Resolution of 1900. The Fair Wages Schedules are prepared by Fair Wages Officers who visit the localities in which the building or other work is to be performed and ascertain by inquiry of both employers and workmen the scale of remuneration and the hours of labour which are generally observed in the district for the trades required. These officers are also employed in connection with the investigation of any complaints which may subsequently arise as to non-compliance by contractors with Fair Wages conditions. The number of Fair Wages Schedules prepared since the adoption of the Fair Wages Resolution in 1900 is 3,016, of which 520 were prepared during the calendar year 1913.

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, 1912 and 1913. In these reports prices are measured by index numbers based upon the average prices of from 230 to 272 selected commodities in the period of 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 24 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 commodities in the base-period by 100, the tables and diagrams published in the reports show the course of prices during the 24 years 1890-1913 for all the commodities combined, for each of the 13 groups and for separate commodities.

Table 4 shows the index number of all commodities by groups from 1890 to 1913 and Table 5 the index numbers by groups from