

## LABOUR

railroad construction was quiet. Agriculture was adversely affected by the labour shortage, but as production was much smaller than in 1915 the demand for labour was not so great. Lumbering revived remarkably, but fishing fell off, especially on the west coast. Immigration for 1916 showed a gain over 1915, the increase being about 36 p.c. Wages were almost uniformly upward in 1916; of the 136 changes in wages and hours, affecting approximately 93,540 workpeople reported to the Department as taking effect during the year, one only showed a decline in the wage scale, four an increase in wages and reduction in hours, two a reduction in hours, while in 129 cases wage increases were indicated. Of these wage changes the greatest number occurred in steam railway service, and there were more workpeople affected in this occupation than in any other. The large number of changes in this service is accounted for in some degree by the fact that several of the organizations of railway employees had intended asking the companies for new agreements in 1914, but postponed this action on account of the war until the year 1916, when the sharp advance in the cost of living prompted them to take action.

**Labour Organization.**—The total trades union membership reported at the end of 1916 was 160,407, being comprised in 1,842 local branches of trade union organizations of all types. The membership reported at the close of 1915 was 143,343, comprised in 1,883 branches. There was, therefore, an increase of 17,064 members and a decrease of 41 branches during the year. Of the total trades union membership for 1916, 129,123 were members of international organizations, which have 1,626 local branches in Canada. The remaining 31,284 were members of national and independent bodies. There was a gain of 14,401 in the membership of international organizations, a gain of 3,443 among independent bodies and a decrease of 780 in national unions. From the outbreak of the war to the end of the year, it was reported to the Department of Labour by 1,287 local trade union branches that 21,599 trade unionists in Canada had enlisted for the war and 593 reservists rejoined the colours, making a total of 22,192 members who had joined the army.

**Industrial Disputes.**—The number of strikes and lockouts in Canada reported to the Department of Labour during 1916 was seventy-five, as compared with forty-three in 1915, which was the lowest on record since 1901, when the Department first collected statistics relating to strikes. The seventy-five strikes of 1916 involved 271 employers and 21,157 workpeople, with resultant time losses to the latter estimated at 208,277 working days. There was an increase in 1916 over 1915 of 175 in the number of employers and of 12,017 in the number of employees involved. The increase in time losses was 102,128 working days. The number of strikes which began in 1916 was seventy-four, one strike having been carried over from 1915. The industry most affected by strikes during 1916 was transportation, nineteen strikes, involving thirty-three concerns and 2,340 workers, whose time losses were estimated at 27,288 working days, being recorded. Fifteen strikes affecting forty-four employers and 2,883 workers, with time losses reckoned at 33,133 working days, were reported as affecting the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades. Ten strikes involving the greatest number of