

7.—Trade Disputes—Strikes and Lockouts.

Statistics of strikes and lockouts in Canada have been collected and published by the Department of Labour since its inception in 1900. Table 11 shows the number of disputes, the number of employers and employees involved and the time lost in working days for each year from 1901 to 1922, and the totals for the period. The items in the column headed "time loss in working days" in the tables following, are calculated by multiplying the number of persons directly affected through strikes or lockouts by the number of working days they are so affected during the time the disputes are in existence.

Statistics for the first ten months of 1923 show that there were 72 disputes affecting 357 employers and 30,484 employees. The time lost during the ten months was 656,188 working days. This was about 35 p.c. of the time loss from January 1 to October 31, 1922, when 1,871,267 working days had been lost in industrial disputes. The greatest time loss in any one of the ten months for which figures are available occurred in July, when 310,608 working days were lost. This was chiefly due to related strikes of coal miners and iron and steel workers, which together caused a loss of 282,844 working days.

For the year 1922, the number of disputes, the number of employers and employees involved were greater than in the previous year, and the time loss in working days during the year greatly exceeded that for 1921, owing to two strikes of coal miners, one lasting from May to August in south-eastern British Columbia and Alberta, and the three weeks' strike in Nova Scotia during August, as well as to a number of prolonged disputes, such as the printers' strike for a 44-hour week beginning about June 1st, 1921, and to a considerable extent unsettled at the end of the year.

Table 11 is a record of industrial disputes by years from 1901 to 1922. It is interesting to note that 1922 ranks second in the number of working days lost during the 22 years of the record, 1919 taking first place. Of the total time lost since 1900, 9.6 p.c. was due to industrial disputes in 1922 and 19.2 p.c. in 1919. There was an increase in the number of employees involved and in the time lost during 1922 as compared with 1921, although the number of disputes and the number of employers concerned were both smaller than in the latter year.

11.—Record of Trade Disputes by years, 1901-1922.

Years.	Number of Disputes.		Disputes in Existence in the Year.		
	In existence in the year.	Beginning in the year.	Employers involved.	Employees involved.	Time loss in working days.
1901.....	104	104	273	28,086	632,311
1902.....	121	121	420	12,264	120,940
1903.....	146	146	927	50,041	1,226,500
1904.....	99	99	575	16,482	265,004
1905.....	89	88	437	16,223	217,244
1906.....	141	141	1,015	26,050	359,797
1907.....	149	144	825	36,224	621,962
1908.....	68	65	175	25,293	708,285
1909.....	69	69	397	17,332	871,845
1910.....	84	82	1,335	21,280	718,635
1911.....	99	96	475	30,094	2,046,650
1912.....	150	148	989	40,511	1,099,208
1913.....	113	106	1,015	39,536	1,287,678
1914.....	44	40	205	8,678	430,054
1915.....	43	38	96	9,140	106,149
1916.....	75	74	271	21,157	208,277
1917.....	148	141	714	48,329	1,134,970
1918.....	196	191	766	68,489	763,341
1919.....	298	290	1,913	138,988	3,942,189
1920.....	285	272	1,273	52,150	886,754
1921.....	145	138	907	22,930	956,461
1922.....	85	70	569	41,050	1,975,276
Total.....	2,751¹	2,663	15,572	770,327¹	20,579,530¹

¹In these totals, figures for disputes extending over the end of a year are counted more than once.