

Causes and Results of Industrial Disputes.—During 1927 and 1928, as in previous years, most of the disputes were in regard to wages, or wages and other working conditions, but also during these two years a large proportion of disputes (and these included some of the most important) were in regard to trade unionism, usually concerned with union wages and working conditions, including recognition of unions, closed shop, etc.

As in previous years many of the disputes during 1927 and 1928 were settled by negotiations; in 1928, out of a total of 93 disputes terminated during the year, 39 settlements resulted from negotiations. An appreciable number of disputes terminated in the return of strikers or by their replacement, 34 being terminated in this manner in 1928.

The results of strikes and lockouts according to the number of employees involved in the years 1901 to 1928 are shown by the diagram on page 741. Details of strikes and lockouts in 1928 will be found in the Labour Gazette for February 1929, pp. 137-156.

Section 9.—Employment and Unemployment.

Subsection 1.—Operations of the Employment Service of Canada.

Employment Service of Canada.—Under sec. 3 of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (c. 57, R.S.C., 1927), an Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in May, 1918, to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of employment offices, the Minister of Labour is empowered:—

“(a) to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of employment offices and to promote uniformity of methods among them;

(b) to establish one or more clearing houses for the interchange of information between employment offices concerning the transfer of labour and other matters;

(c) to compile and distribute information received from employment offices and from other sources regarding prevailing conditions of employment”.

The Act further provides that certain sums of money are to be appropriated annually and paid to the provinces on a basis proportionate to the amount that each expends on the maintenance of employment offices.

The desired uniformity and co-ordination of employment office activities throughout the various provinces are obtained by having the Dominion's payments contingent upon an agreement ensuring that the provinces, in the conduct of their employment offices, shall endeavour to fill situations in all trades and occupations for both men and women, and that no charge shall be made to employers or employees for this service. Each province agrees to maintain a provincial clearance system in co-operation with the interprovincial clearance system established by the Dominion Government, in order to secure the necessary mobility of labour as between localities in the same province or in different provinces. For the fiscal year 1928-29, agreements were concluded with all of the provinces except Prince Edward Island. Thus is formed the Employment Service of Canada—a chain of employment offices reaching from Halifax to Vancouver. At the time the Act came into force only 12 provincial employment offices were operated in Canada. This number was steadily increased until, at the close of 1919, due to the impetus given by the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act together with the requirements of the demobilization period, offices were functioning at 84 different centres. Subsequent contractions