

previous years, related to difficulties resulting from rapidly changing methods of distribution and new methods of competition, with their resulting disturbances of established business relationships and practices. The points involved in these cases included matters of resale price maintenance, uniform price-fixing agreements by groups of manufacturers and distributors, the withholding of supplies from certain dealers, and other practices alleged to be in restraint of trade and against the interest of the public.

## PART II.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

### Section 1.—Wage Rates<sup>1</sup>.

Statistics of rates of wages and hours of labour have been collected for recent years by the Dominion Department of Labour, and are published in a series of bulletins supplementary to the Labour Gazette. Report No. 1 of this series was issued in March, 1921. The records upon which the statistics are based begin in most cases with the year 1901. Index numbers have been calculated to show the general movement of wage rates; 21 classes of labour are covered in this series back to 1901, 4 classes of coal miners back to 1900, and common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades and lumbering back to 1911. The index numbers are based upon wage rates in 1913 as 100.

The accompanying table of index numbers (Table 1) shows the relative changes from year to year. A downward movement appeared in most of the groups in 1921 and 1922, after the peak had been reached in 1920. The index numbers for 1923 and 1924 showed on the whole a slightly upward trend, but while there were slight increases during 1925 in some groups, a substantial decline in coal miners' wages reduced the average. In 1926 slight increases took place in the wages paid by the building, metal and printing trades, electric railways and steam railways. In 1927 general increases took place in all the six groups included in the average, as well as in the other three groups; wage increases in the building trades and on the steam railways were the outstanding features of the year. In 1928, except steam railways which was stationary, and common factory labour which declined fractionally, all groups showed an upward movement, a substantial increase appearing in building trades.

The rates of wages and hours of labour of employees on steam railways in Canada in recent years are given in Table 2, and comparable figures for earlier years will be found at p. 715 of the 1926 Year Book. Wages of employees in coal mines in Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia are given in Table 3. Sample wages and hours of labour for miscellaneous factory trades and for unskilled factory labour in Canada in recent years will be found at pp. 717-719 of the 1926 Year Book. Finally, rates of wages and hours of labour in 1927 in various trades in the largest cities of the five economic areas of Canada will be found in Table 4. The attention of those specially interested in the subject of wages and hours is directed to the valuable detailed study, "Wages and Hours of Labour in Canada, 1920 to 1928," published by the Department of Labour as a supplement to the Labour Gazette, January, 1929.

<sup>1</sup> See pp. 774-783 of the 1927-28 Year Book for an article on the "Wages Statistics of the Census of 1921."