

discharge of workers for union activity or membership, the employment of union members only) have led to many strikes and caused about 40 p.c. of the total time loss. In 1939, changes in wages, as usual, caused the largest number of strikes, but union questions were again responsible for many strikes and 50 p.c. of the total time loss. An unusually large number were due to other causes affecting wages and working conditions, chiefly in coal mining.

Approximately one-third of all disputes were settled by direct negotiations, one-third by conciliation or mediation, and one-third by the return of workers. This shows a large increase in the number of disputes settled by conciliation and arbitration compared with years previous to 1938, when negotiations ended about one-half of all disputes. As for results, the figures show that about one-fourth of the workers directly involved were successful, that over one-third were partially successful, and the remainder were unsuccessful.

## Section 8.—Wage Rates and Earnings.

### Subsection 1.—Wage Rates and Hours for Various Classes of Labour in Canada.\*

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, with the year 1913 as base, to show the general movement of wage rates; the series covers six groups of occupations back to 1901, and common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades, and lumbering back to 1911. Average index numbers, weighted according to the average numbers of employees in each group as shown in the Censuses of 1921 and 1931, are also given. Weighting has not been applied within the groups. In groups by occupations or industries such as these, weighting makes comparatively little difference as rates of wages for the various classes of labour tend to rise and fall to the same extent even in different localities. In the three groups of common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades, and logging and sawmilling, the index numbers being calculated from samples, the averages are automatically weighted by the numbers of samples, which vary according to the numbers of workers in the various occupations and industries. The upward movement that appeared in the index numbers for some groups in 1934 became general in 1935 and continued in 1936, 1937, 1938, and to a slight extent in 1939. On steam railways wages were increased in 1937 and in 1938, the 1929 rates being restored gradually.

\* A detailed study on the subject of wages and hours of labour in Canada is obtainable from the Department of Labour, Ottawa. See pp. 774-783 of the 1927-28 Year Book for an article on the "Wages Statistics of the Census of 1921" and pp. 797-799 of the 1933 Year Book for "Earnings in the Census Year 1931"