

With reference to methods of settlement: since 1935 there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of strikes and lockouts settled by conciliation; up to that time approximately half were settled by direct negotiation. In 1941, 24 p.c. of the disputes were terminated as a result of conciliation by Federal or Provincial Departments of Labour, 14 p.c. by reference to Boards under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act or by Industrial Disputes Inquiry Commissions appointed in accordance with the provisions of P.C. 4020 of June 6, 1941, 3 p.c. by arbitration, 29 p.c. by negotiation, 23 p.c. by return of workers and 6 p.c. by replacement of those on strike.

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 to show the general movement of wage rates. The series published until 1940 was on the base of rates in the year 1913 as 100. A new series with four additional industries was constructed on the base of 1935-39 as 100, to correspond with the new cost-of-living index on the same base, and appeared in a supplement to the *Labour Gazette* for April, 1941. The accompanying table gives the figures for 10 of the 13 groups of occupations from 1929 to 1941. A complete table of index numbers together with details as to its compilation is given in the annual report on "Wages and Hours of Labour in Canada" issued by the Department of Labour. Statistics on the new base were first published in the Year Book at p. 697 of the 1941 edition; as revisions have been made in the logging and sawmilling series, with consequent effects upon the general average, the figures are again given in Table 25. The general average index includes the 3 groups not included in Table 25; figures for these 3 groups extend back as follows: steamships, 1901; laundries, 1913; telephones, 1920.

From 1930 to 1933 there was a general decrease in wage rates but several groups showed increases in 1934 and increases were general in each year since that time averaging 3 p.c. in 1940 and 10 p.c. in 1941. Some of the increases in 1940 and many of those in 1941 were made in the form of a cost-of-living bonus to be adjusted from time to time according to the official cost-of-living index numbers.

The accompanying chart shows the relation between wage rates in 1941 and 1929, the peak year of the 'boom' period. The cost-of-living index was higher in 1929 than in 1941 (see Table 9 of the Prices Chapter, p. 736) but, as will be seen from Table 25, money wages were higher in 1941 for all trades except those connected with building. The worker was therefore better off in terms of real income, i.e., purchasing power, than he was at the height of the boom period.

* 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".