

During 1942 and 1943 more strikes resulted from questions involving demands for increases in wages than from any other cause. In 1942 these strikes involved, also, a larger number of workers and resulted in a greater time loss than resulted from any other cause, but in 1943 "other causes affecting wages and working conditions" resulted in strikes involving more workers in a greater loss of time than resulted from demands for increases in wages. Union questions caused less than 20 p.c. of the strikes in 1943.

Since 1935, the proportion of strikes and lockouts settled by conciliation has increased. Up to that time about half were settled by direct negotiations of the parties involved. Conciliation was an important factor in the settlement of 36 p.c. of the strikes in 1942, and direct negotiations in 32 p.c. In 1943 conciliation was a factor in the settlement of about 45 p.c. of the strikes and direct negotiations in 25 p.c. In both 1942 and 1943 most of the strikes involving demands for increases in wages were finally settled by reference to National or Regional War Labour Boards following the resumption of work.

## Section 9.—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 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. A complete table of index numbers, together with details as to its compilation, has been given in the annual reports 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. Table 24 gives the figures for 10 of the 13 groups of occupations from 1921 to 1942. The general average index includes the three groups not included in that table; figures for these three groups extend back as follows: steamships, 1901; laundries, 1931; and 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; a further increase of 7 p.c. occurred in 1942. Some of the increases in 1940 and many of those in 1941 and 1942 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 number.

The work of collecting and compiling wage statistics was transferred early in 1942 from the Statistics Branch of the Department of Labour to the National War Labour Board. No report on wages and hours of labour has been published by the Board but the index numbers for 1942 have been calculated and are shown in Table 24.

\* 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".