

loss. In 1944 strikes over demands for increased wages, reduced hours and other changes caused only 14 p.c. of the total time loss, while strikes over union questions were responsible for about 70 p.c. of the total, two strikes alone causing more than 300,000 days' loss.

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. In 1944, 60 p.c. of the total strikes were settled by various government agencies, federal and provincial. The improvement in employer-employee relations, as indicated by the decline in strike activity during 1944, reflects the co-operation of both management and workers in the application of the Wartime Labour Relations Regulations, which went into effect on Mar. 20, 1944. In 1944, about 25 workers in every 1,000 were involved in strikes, as compared with 72 in 1943, 39 in 1942, 33 in 1941, 27 in 1940 and 20 in 1939.

## Section 10.—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 many years by the Dominion Department of Labour and published in a series of reports 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 show the general movement of wage rates for the main industrial groups.

In the most recent Report of the series (No. 26), the index number has been revised back to 1939 and placed on the base 1939=100 for the entire period since 1901. The percentage changes for the period 1939 to 1943 shown by the revised index for the principal groups of industries do not differ materially from the percentage changes shown by the previous index which was last published in the *Labour Gazette* for October, 1944. This Report contains tables showing average rates for selected occupations along with the predominant ranges of rates and the standard or normal hours of labour per week. The statistics are given by provinces or regions and, when possible, for Montreal and Toronto. Tables 28 and 29 show the index numbers of wage rates by main industrial groups and by industries.

From 1930 to 1933 there was a general decrease in wage rates but several groups showed increases in 1934 and increases were general each year since that time, averaging 3 p.c. in 1940, 10 p.c. in 1941, 7.7 p.c. in 1942 and 7.8 p.c. in 1943. Some of the increases in 1940 and many in subsequent years 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 and by order of the National War Labour Board. (Since Nov. 15, 1941, no change may be made in wage rates without authorization of the National Board or a Regional War Labour Board—see p. 751.)

\* 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".