

Strikes and Lockouts in Recent Years.—The period of reconversion of industry to peacetime production during 1946 was marked by a series of strikes in certain key industries. These involved large numbers of workers and were of unusually long duration. While the total number of stoppages during the year was not substantially higher than in the two previous years, the number of workers involved was greater than in any of the war years, except 1943. The loss of working time due to strikes was greater than in any other year on record and exceeded the total for all the war years, 1939 to 1945. However, if allowance is made for the great increase in industrial employment, the time-loss was not as great as in 1919, the first year after the First World War.

In 1946, more than 62 p.c. of the workers involved in strikes and more than 83 p.c. of the total time-loss were in manufacturing. In coal mining, the number of strikes was slightly higher than in the previous year but the time-loss was less, being only 1 p.c. of the total for the year. Twelve strikes involved 63 p.c. of the total number of workers and caused 90 p.c. of the total time-loss. During 1946, the loss of working time was five days in every 1,000 of available working time. Comparative figures for certain earlier years were: 1945, 1.6 days; 1944, 0.5 day; 1943, 1.1 days; 1942 and 1941 about 0.5 day each; and for 1919, the estimate was 6.4 days. Each wage and salary worker lost on the average about 1.5 days in 1946 and 0.5 day in 1945. For 1919, the estimate was 2 days.

Since the strike-record was started, the demand for increases in wages has been generally, year by year, the most important single cause of strikes. The year 1945 was an exception. While more strikes were due to this cause than to any other, they resulted in a very small proportion of the total time-loss in that year. Most of the idleness in 1945 arose from disputes concerning unionism. In 1946, the demand for wage increases was a major issue in about 30 p.c. of the strikes and, combined with various union questions, was the principal cause in many others, with a resulting time-loss of about 95 p.c. of the total.

Since 1935, the proportion of strikes settled by public conciliation services and by reference to various other Government agencies has increased. Before that year about one-half the work stoppages were settled by direct negotiation. In 1946, about one-half the strikes were settled by the conciliation services or by reference to Government labour boards or to arbitration.

29.—Strikes and Lockouts, 1937-46

NOTE.—For the years 1901-20, see the 1933 Year Book, p. 763, and for 1921-36 the 1938 Year Book, p. 763.

Year	Coal Mining			Industries other than Coal Mining			All Industries			
	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Strikes and Lockouts Beginning in Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1937.....	44	15,477	112,826	234	56,428	773,567	278	274	71,905	886,393
1938.....	25	5,054	21,366	122	15,341	127,312	147	142	20,395	148,678
1939.....	48	31,102	111,274	74	9,936	113,314	122	120	41,038	224,588
1940.....	65	31,223	68,734	103	29,396	197,584	168	166	60,619	266,318
1941.....	45	38,136	109,069	186	48,955	324,845	231	229	87,091	433,914
1942.....	53	19,870	66,318	301	94,246	383,884	354	352	113,916	450,202
1943.....	111	59,017	204,930	294	159,387	836,218	402	401	218,404	1,041,198
1944.....	46	11,180	28,507	153	64,110	461,632	199	195	75,290	490,139
1945.....	39	27,422	183,102	158	68,646	1,274,318	197	196	96,068	1,457,420
1946.....	42	21,414	43,854	186	118,060	4,472,539	228	225	139,474	4,516,393