

WELFARE WORK FOR LUMBERMEN

The report ends with an account of the activities of the inspector of housing for forestry workers and lumbermen (pp. 99-103). In the course of the year he visited 200 (198) huts and 97 (69) stables housing 1,003 (563) men and 216 (116) horses — less than half their actual capacity. The local authorities were more active than in 1922, inspecting 531 (409) huts and 374 (202) stables housing 3,563 (2,843) men and 1,187 (694) horses. The timber trade was brisk during 1923, and in the course of the working season a dispute broke out, which was not finally settled until 1 August 1924, when some of the principal employers made an agreement with the Lumbermen's Association fixing the terms of individual contracts of employment. These terms include a pledge to provide accommodation in accordance with the law for men and horses, so that the attention both of employers and of workers has been drawn to the legal requirements in this matter. The inspector enquired into the provision of first-aid dressings at workplaces, and directed employers to supply them where necessary, while first-aid classes were organised with the help of the Red Cross and attended by 105 foremen (pp. 101-102).

Administration of Labour Laws in Ontario in 1922 and 1923¹

A considerable proportion of the reports of the Ontario Department of Labour is devoted to employment exchange work (1922, pp. 8, 13-36, 75-83; 1923, pp. 9, 13-42). Twenty-five public exchanges were in operation during the years 1922 and 1923; they received applications for employment from 213,821 (192,266)² workers, and employers registered 209,663 (180,967) vacancies with them. Employment lasting two weeks or more was found for 110,971 (100,288) persons, and casual work in 56,962 (42,723) cases (1922, p. 17; 1923, p. 14). In addition, thirteen licensed private employment agencies were in operation during the two years under report; they placed 39,333 persons in employment in 1923, as against 32,286 in 1922 (1923, pp. 41-42). The unemployment relief schemes of the province (subsidised public works) benefited 116,631 per-

¹ ONTARIO. DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR: *Third Annual Report, 1922*. 88 pp. *Fourth Annual Report, 1923*. 99 pp. Toronto, King's Printer, 1923 and 1924.

² The figures in brackets are those for 1922, and the figures preceding the brackets are for 1923.

sons in 1922 (p. 36) ; no particulars are given for 1923. Though there was much employment, trade was a little better in 1922 than in 1921 (p. 7). and better still in 1923 (pp. 9-10). The work of the exchanges is described in two appendices to the report for 1922 : " Employment Office Methods ", by the Superintendent of the Toronto Employment Office, and " Placement of the Handicapped Worker ", by an official of the Handicap Division of the same office (pp. 75-83).

The report for 1922 contains a very full table of wages and hours in various occupations in different localities, comparing September 1921 with June 1922 (pp. 60-74). The 1923 report contains a less elaborate table comparing figures for September in each year from 1921 to 1923 (pp. 98-99). In factories, shops, and offices the usual weekly hours of work were 44-50 ; a comparatively small number of the workers were employed up to 60 hours a week in 1922 (p. 59), but 10.7 per cent. were employed 58-60 hours a week in 1923 (p. 45). Overtime permits were granted by the factory inspectors in 406 (212) cases, as against 192 in 1921 (1922, p. 41), exclusive of the 746 (345) permits for the contract clothing industry (1923, p. 45).

There was a reduction of wages in many trades during 1922, and most of the disputes were connected with this, though the four disputes in the printing trade which began in 1921 and lasted throughout 1922 were part of a campaign for the 44-hour week (1922, p. 9). Three of these lasted on into 1923 (p. 11). In all there were 23 stoppages of work in 1922 and 16 in 1923, compared with 53 in 1921. These are recorded in detail for 1922 only (pp. 55-56) ; they affected 2,712 persons, and caused a loss of 367,893 working days (p. 54).

The 13 (12) men and 5 (4) women inspectors of factories, shops and office buildings paid 18,106 (18,528) visits of inspection to 10,135 (11,320) establishments employing 256,064 (235,486) persons, as against 14,349 visits to 8,713 establishments in 1921. Forty-eight (29) children under 14 were found in employment (1923, p. 44). The general remarks on the year's work of the individual inspectors, among whom are an inspector of foundries and an inspector of grinding, buffing and polishing plant, are reprinted in full in the 1923 report (pp. 54-79). The foundries inspector remarks on the frequency of bad lighting, a fruitful cause of accidents, and the grinding plant inspector lays down rules for the construction and maintenance of exhausts. Orders were issued for the remedying of defects in 8,124 (10,115) cases (7,254 in 1921), and prosecutions were instituted and convictions procured in 4 (7) cases (1922, p. 41 ; 1923, pp. 43-45).

The total number of accidents reported from undertakings supervised by the factory inspectorate was 4,788 (3,416), of which 71 (45) were fatal ; the corresponding figures for 1921 are 4,013 and 46. Six (nine) of the fatalities were due to transmission machinery, and seven (five) to falls (1922, p. 42 ; 1923, p. 46). Nine deaths in 1923 were due to burns and scalds, eleven to gas fumes (nine at the same place), five to electricity, and eight to lifts (p. 46). The use of interlocking devices for lift and hoist well gates has now been ordered (1923, pp. 7, 43). The detailed analyses of the accidents (1922, pp. 46-48 ; 1923, pp. 51-53) show that 739 (494) were due to falling objects and 553 (286) to workers falling, while 426 (396) were caused by workers being jammed or caught

between various objects, 286 (211) were sprains and strains, and 199 (178) infected wounds. Over one-third of the accidents in both years were injuries to some part of the hand, and two-thirds of the total number of accidents occurred in the metal and the pulp and paper trades — 2,042 (1,373) in the former and 1,151 (912) in the latter. The reports also contain a return of the total number of fatal industrial accidents notified — 467 (423) in all, 69 (59) of which occurred on railways worked by steam and 42 (47) in the logging industry (1922, p. 57 ; 1923, p. 96).

The seven boiler inspectors examined 724 (333) drawings and specifications, and inspected 405 (354) new vessels under pressure and 974 (846) old ones, which were repaired, sold, or exchanged (1922, pp. 51-54 ; 1923, pp. 8, 81-83). Certificates of competence were granted to 10,649 (11,486) stationary engineers and 2,252 (2,426) hoisting and portable engineers (1922, pp. 37-40 ; 1923, pp. 8-9, 88-93). The Interprovincial Regulations for the construction and inspection of boilers and other vessels under pressure came into operation on 2 January 1923 (p. 84).

The report for 1922 also includes an article on factory hygiene in Ontario, by a member of the factory inspection staff (pp. 83-88), and a note on immigration into the province during the year. The Irish and Scottish contingents made up half the total of 28,249 immigrants in 1922 (p. 58) and in 1923 the total number of immigrants was 60,993 (p. 97). Both reports contain a list of the new Acts within the scope of the Department passed during the year (1922, pp. 11-12 ; 1923, p. 12).

Administration of Labour Laws in British Columbia in 1923¹

As in previous years², only a very brief return on factory inspection is included in the Report of the British Columbia Department of Labour. This return (pp. 46-47) gives no statistics of the field to be covered or the work done by the four inspectors (two men and two women, one of the latter being also an inspector for the Minimum Wage Board). The Chief Inspector remarks that accidents are declining in number, owing to the special attention given by the inspectorate to safety matters, and especially to lighting. He also notes that the 48-hour week for women workers has been steadily enforced.

¹ BRITISH COLUMBIA : *Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year ended 31 December 1923*. Victoria, King's Printer, 1924. 78 pp.

² For summary of 1922 report, cf. *International Labour Review*, Vol. VIII, No. 4, Oct. 1923, pp. 609 *et seq.*