

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.*

A considerable amount of space is devoted to an analysis of the annual returns of number, age, sex, and nationality of workers, and of wages and hours of work, which are procured from employers (pp. 11-32). The 3,375 returns received in 1923 did not cover the whole industrial field, but their number was about 15 per cent. in advance of the previous year's total (pp. 32, 11). Trade was considerably better than in 1922, and unemployment much less (p. 7). The month of maximum employment for the firms making returns was August (for women alone the maximum was September), and the lowest ebb occurred in January (p. 32). Rather more than one-sixth of the workers were employed for less than 48 hours a week, and about one-third for 48 hours; the average working week for all persons covered by the returns was 51.46 hours, and in six cases (all in coast shipping) a week of 108 hours was worked (pp. 17, 21).

An account is given of the year's labour legislation (pp. 9-10), the most important item being the Hours of Work Act¹, reprinted at the end of the report (pp. 76-78), to come into operation on 1 January 1925, which provides for an 8-hour day and a 48-hour week in industry generally. Other legislation passed in 1921-1922 in pursuance of the Washington Conventions, however, is still inoperative, since it is not to come into force until other Canadian Provinces legislate in the same sense, and none have as yet done so (p. 8).

The sixth annual report of the Minimum Wage Board (pp. 48-61) gives summaries of the orders in force, and statistics of the firms reporting to the Board in various industries, the number of persons employed, the wages paid, and the hours worked. Employers were generally found to be willing to pay the legal wage or more, but a comparatively small number persisted in disobeying the orders of the Board, and were therefore successfully prosecuted (p. 10).

The Government Employment Service, with sixteen branch offices, received 110,254 applications for employment and 50,016 for workers, and filled 45,825 vacancies in the course of the year. Nearly five thousand workers were sent to the prairie Provinces for the harvest season with the help of the exchanges. The illegal practice of charging workers fees for placing them was found to have almost ceased, the only important private agencies remaining in existence being those of certain logging companies who have salaried agents for the recruiting of workers (pp. 39-45).

The report of the Department also contains directories of employers' associations (pp. 62-63) and trade unions (pp. 64-75), and an account of the industrial disputes of the years (pp. 33-38). The most serious dispute was that between the Shipping Federation and the International Longshoremen's Union, which arose on the expiry of the agreement in force down to 6 October 1923, and lasted until 7 December. The Vancouver printers' strike, declared on 1 May 1921, was ended on 18 November 1923, by which time almost all the employers concerned had agreed to the 44-hour week demanded by the men.

¹ INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE : *Legislative Series*, 1923, Can. 3.