

trial warfare. The hours of the other fifty per cent. of the workers vary all the way from nine to sixteen hours per day.

Perhaps no other remedial legislation could be suggested which would more effectively stabilize opinion among the industrial classes than the giving of the eight-hour day to the remaining one-half of our workers who have not yet secured it. The very fact that some work for eight hours only, while others are forced to toil from nine to sixteen hours per day, is sufficient to unsettle the whole industrial order. To meet this condition the Liberal Party, if returned to office, proposes to take steps towards establishing in industrial occupations a uniform scale as to hours of employment, at once moderate and beneficial, and of as general application as possible.

The benefits to be derived from such legislation have been abundantly proven in other countries, where experience has shown that the reduction to reasonable hours does not necessarily involve any consequent reduction in production. Much authority can be quoted in support of this proposition.

Ontario is far behind other countries in labor legislation, but even in Ontario there is some little law on the subject.

No child or woman can be employed in a factory or shop for more than ten hours per day or sixty hours per week, except on Saturdays and days preceding statutory holidays, when the hours may be from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

No person shall be employed in bake shops for more than twelve hours per day or sixty hours per week.

Railway employees are not permitted to work for more than six days of ten hours each in one week, while trainmen and dispatchers must be given six hours rest after sixteen consecutive hours of duty.

With the exception of the limitation of the hours for underground miners, this is the extent of the present Government's humanitarian interest in labour.

As the result of years of persistent agitation, the workers of Northern Ontario forced an eight-hour day for underground miners. The concession was wrung from an unwilling Conservative Administration as a political necessity after the measure had been repeatedly moved on the floor of the House by the Liberal members, the Government setting aside an Opposition bill in order to pass its own.