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Wage-earners and Time Losses.

It is interesting to compare the figures of time losses from strikes with those of possible working days of the wage-earning population. The year 1911 was, as noted, exceptionally high in time losses, showing, at 2,021,440 wasted days, twice the volume of time losses recorded for any other year. The wage-earners for that year are estimated at slightly under 1,300,000, and the possible working days for 1911, may be, therefore, placed at 390,000,000; this estimate allows an average of 300 working days a year to each worker. Analysis shows that these time losses of two million days were no more than the one hundred and ninety-fifth part ($1/195$) of the number of days worked, or, putting it in another way, if spread evenly over the whole wage-earning population of Canada the time losses by strikes for 1911 would represent a loss per worker of a fraction under two days. For 1912 the figure representing time losses, as against number of days worked dwindles to less than one day per worker; the time losses were only fifty per cent. of those of 1911, and the industrial population had grown.

The time losses for the twelve years covered by the report reach the sum of 8,888,381 days. It is a formidable figure, and there is danger for the moment of overlooking the fact that it must be divided first by twelve, to secure the yearly average of 740,698 days. In the

above analysis the comparison was made for the two highest years when the time losses were far above the average; the average percentage for the complete period, therefore, of time losses to possible work-days sinks accordingly.

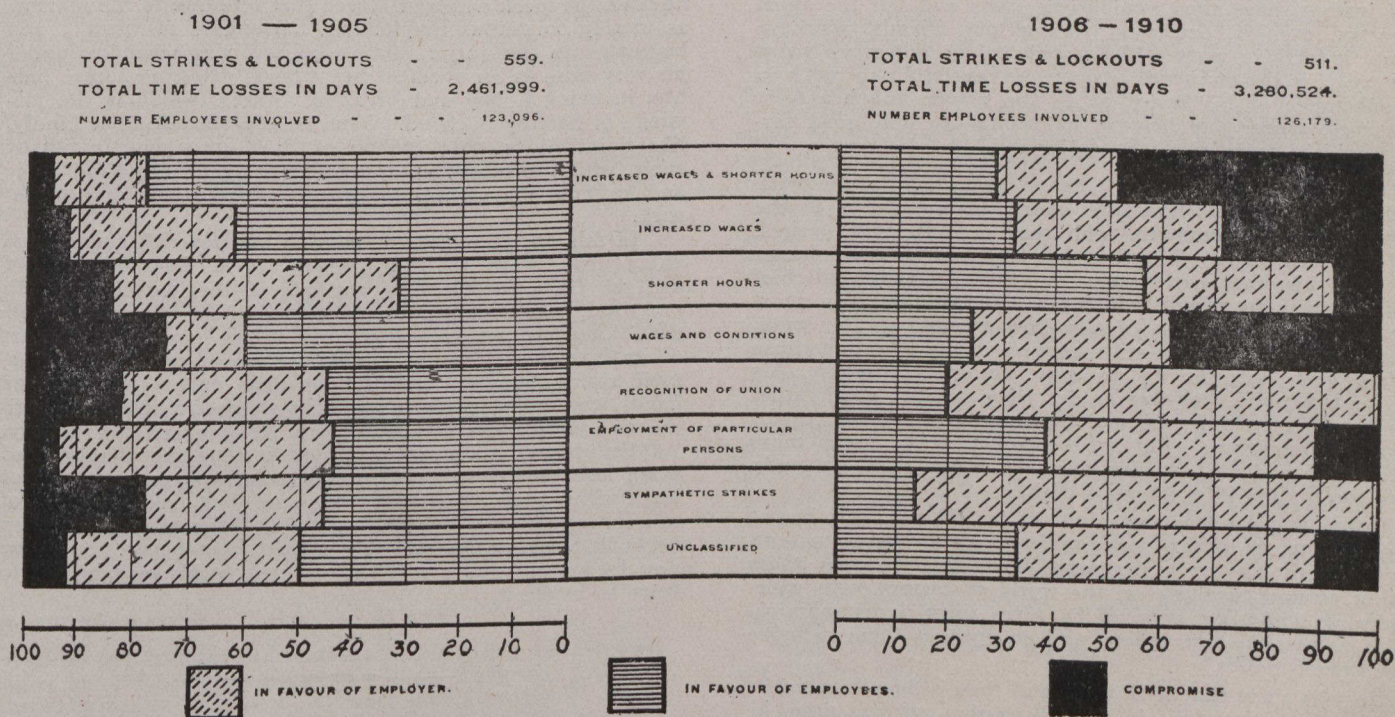
Does Not Justify Despair.

These figures, the government authorities think, tend to show that, however largely the problem of industrial disputes may loom in the public mind, and, however acute may be sometimes the inconvenience, injury or loss resulting from them in a particular locality, yet the net sum of the losses which may be directly debited to industrial disputes does not justify dismay or despair; and is but an item in a year's industrial account. The mass of wage-earners works steadily on, and is affected only as part of society at large. This, at least, is an optimistic view of the question.

Strike Causes and Results.

Labor organizations have become a strong political factor in Canada. In the drafting of the workmen's compensation act for Ontario, they played a leading role and obtained practically every concession requested in regard to that legislation. A lawyer remarked at the time that the labor element seemed to have mesmerized the cabinet ministers!

One of the most interesting studies in the government report is in connection with the causes and results of strikes. During the whole period the question of recognition of union has been prominent. From 1901 to 1905 it accounted for 17.2 per cent. of the time losses. In 1906-1910 for 26.7 per cent. Taking the whole period, it accounted for 22.6 per cent. From 1901-1910, demands for increased wages were responsible for 30.7 per cent. of the time losses. During the same period 31 per cent. of the strikes and lockouts were settled in favor of the employers and 34 per cent. in favor of the employees; indefinite conclusions and compromise accounted for the remainder. The accompanying charts will well repay close analysis and reveal some further interesting facts.



Causes and Results of Strikes.