

As much as possible of the branch's work is made available not only to the federal government, but to the general public. This is done through the Labour Gazette and through various regular and special reports issued by the branch.

The branch is a recognized source of information and advice on the subjects with which it deals. For example, at the request of the Gordon Commission it prepared a report, printed by the commission, on skilled and professional manpower in Canada, and also prepared working documents on immigration and the Canadian economy, on trade union links between Canada and the United States, and on comparative earnings between Canada and the United States, which was used by the commission.

The branch also responds to a good many specific requests for information from employers, unions and government agencies. Its work is of particular value to unions and management, in their collective bargaining negotiations, in that the factual information and the analysis which it presents is recognized as being balanced and objective.

I should emphasize that the branch is above all a service agency. Its work is carried on in order to be of help to the administrative work of the department, to other branches of the federal government, to other governments in Canada provincial and municipal and to unions and employers.

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The work of the branch falls into two broad fields—labour-management relations and manpower, and as you can see from the chart, organizationally the branch has three divisions concerned with its program, which are:

- (1) the labour-management relations division;
- (2) the employment and labour market division; and
- (3) the manpower resources division.

Administrative services for the branch are carried on by a fourth division, office services.

Labour-management relations is the oldest area of study within the branch. Some of our statistical material in this area goes back to the turn of the century.

In recent years, as you all know, there has been a very great growth in trade unionism and collective bargaining, so much so as to strongly affect the character of our industrial life. As an illustration of this growth, I need only mention that trade union membership doubled during the war and has doubled again since. The extent of collective bargaining has increased proportionately.

Parties to collective bargaining negotiations sometimes feel they can be helpful in reaching a settlement by the use of factual information, and they often come to us for material on average wage rates and working conditions and on trends in collective bargaining. Each year there are more of them to request such information, and each year there are a larger number of collective bargaining relationships for us to study, so our work has increased.

We attempt to measure what is going on in the labour-management area in various ways—looking at the growth of trade union membership, both nationally and by industry, region and locality; and we measure also collective agreement coverage. This gives a picture of the extent of collective bargaining in the country.

We are also interested in the degree of success achieved by labour and management in negotiating their collective bargaining agreements. For many years we have had good statistics on situations where collective bargaining negotiations break down and a strike or lockout ensues. More recently, as a