

tition with the products of free labor, at less prices, and that in consequence wages are lowered, mechanics deprived of employment, and industry disturbed. The system of letting the services of prisoners to contractors appears to be vicious in itself, and unprofitable to the State, while it interferes with the reformation of the criminal. It is recommended that prisoners be employed in making articles for Government use; and that if any goods be manufactured for sale they be such as are not produced by other workmen in Canada, or that they be wholly sold in foreign markets. (See Appendix N).

#### DRINKING HABITS.

Many witnesses complained of the temptations to use intoxicating liquors to which workmen are exposed. In Cape Breton miners and managers of mines joined in recommending that the sale of liquor within three or five miles of any mine should be prohibited, and some favored total prohibition. A witness in Montreal deplored the fact that so many drinking-houses exist on the routes followed by workmen in going to and from their work. In other Provinces similar testimony was given. The interests of temperance would be served if, in all the Provinces, bar-rooms were required to be closed during the whole of every election day. It is also possible to greatly reduce the number of drinking places by requiring a certain distance to exist between any two, and that the number of licenses be based upon population.

#### ELECTION DAY.

Since the great majority of workmen are voters, it is important that they be not deprived of opportunity to exercise their electoral privileges. The law of Ontario provides that they may, on election days, have a lengthened intermission at noon in which to cast their ballots. Your Commissioners believe such provision should be made in the other Provinces.

#### CREDIT SYSTEM.

The credit system is almost always detrimental to the workingman, and any legislation which restricts it will do good. Testimony shows that articles paid for by instalments are sold at extortionate prices, and that frequently, when a purchaser fails to meet a payment, the articles are taken back and all payments upon them are lost. It is recommended that after a certain percentage of the purchase money is paid the law shall hold the sale to be completed; and that if suit be brought to recover the balance judgment shall be given only for the sum required to make up the fair merchantable value of the goods when delivered.

#### LABOR BUREAU RECOMMENDED.

Your Commissioners are firmly persuaded that the interests of working people will be promoted if all matters relating to labor and capital be placed under the administration of one of the Ministers of the Crown, so that a Labor Bureau may be established, statistics collected, information disseminated, and working people find readier means of making their needs and their desires known to the Government.

The signed papers hereto annexed are, for the most part, based upon testimony taken by the Commission, but in less part on information otherwise acquired. They have been carefully considered, and their main conclusions are approved by all the subscribers hereto.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA WORKMEN.

A series of resolutions adopted at a meeting of workmen at Victoria, British Columbia, is printed as an appendix hereto.