

LABOR

The Liberal policy with regard to labor problems, so consistently advocated during successive sessions of the Legislature, and so persistently opposed by the Conservative Government, is in general agreement with the findings of the Majority Report of the National Industrial Conference (held at Ottawa September 15-20, 1919).

What Is the Liberal Policy?

1. To create a separate department of the Government, in the Minister of Cabinet rank, to deal with labour questions.
2. To transfer to this department branches of the public service particularly relating to labour.
3. To study social and industrial problems and the legislation relating thereto obtaining in other countries, with a view to ameliorating conditions of labour in Ontario.
4. To grapple with the problem of unemployment along the lines of the report of the Unemployment Commission.
5. To introduce new legislation in place of the present obsolete Factory Act, with adequate provision for the protection of child labour, the regulation of hours of labour and the supervision of conditions of labour.
6. The improvement of the Workmen's Compensation Act.
7. To institute a programme of social reform, including Old Age Pensions, Widows' Pensions, Sickness and Unemployment Insurance.

Government Opposition to Labour Department.

The policy of creating a Department of Labour, advocated by the Liberals in the Provincial campaign in 1914, has been constantly kept to the forefront. During the session of 1915 the resolution introduced by the Liberals in 1914 was revived and strenuous efforts were made to induce the Government to create such a department, but without success. The Government again voted the resolution down.