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Closing the Capital=Labor Gap

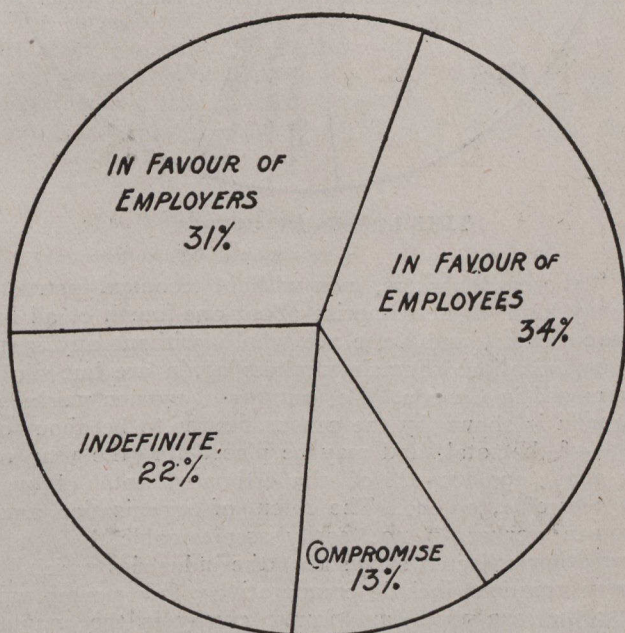
SOME Considerations of the Economics of a Two Million Days' Waste of Time Due to Strikes—Why Men Fought Capital and How they Fared—Development of Organized Labor.

THE worst deduction to be drawn from strike records in the Dominion, according to Deputy Minister Acland, of the Labor Department, Ottawa, is that the great prosperity of twelve recent years would have been yet greater could Canada have escaped its share of the industrial tumult falling to the nations of the world. Mr. Acland recently completed an investi-

and would represent, it is suggested, at \$2.50 a day, an annual loss to the workers of about \$1,900,000, or a total estimated loss for the twelve years of about \$22,000,000. The Ottawa investigators do not figure the financial loss to the employers, which is usually large, as a result of labor disputes. The strike is an unfortunate incident in the industrial world. In this country, such troubles fall on special classes of workers. As Mr. Acland's report points out, coal mining and the building trades stand out in strong relief as those industries which are most afflicted with disputes. It is in connection with organized labor rather than unorganized labor that strikes chiefly occur. The reason is obvious. A strike means unity of action, which is impossible without organization. Wage-earners are seldom inclined to enter on a struggle with their employers until a degree of organization is found in their ranks. The situation is fairly reflected in the very large proportion found of strikes concerning union recognition, or some aspect of union recognition. It will, it is true, frequently happen that union and non-union employees are both concerned in a particular strike. The unionists even may be sometimes in a minority, but, being organized and including inevitably the more aggressive spirits, they will often largely control the action of the employees as a whole.

The following table shows the numbers of strikes and disputants and the amount of time losses measured in working days year by year for the period 1901-1912:—

1901-1910
STRIKES & LOCKOUTS 1,070
TIME LOSSES IN DAYS 5,742,523
EMPLOYEES INVOLVED 249,275



RESULTS OF STRIKES.

gation concerning strikes and lockouts during the twelve years from 1901 to 1912. In view of the population and the industrial strength of the country, Canada's share of labor disputes have been large enough. In the period under review, the strikes numbered 1,319, an average of 110 annually. There were 319,880 employees concerned in these strikes. The time losses in strikes during the twelve years reach nearly nine million working days,

Year.	Disputes.	Estab- lishments concerned.	Employees affected.	Approximate time losses in working days.
1901	104	273	28,086	632,311
1902	121	420	12,264	120,940
1903	146	927	50,041	1,226,500
1904	99	575	16,482	265,004
1905	89	437	16,223	217,244
1906	141	1,015	26,050	359,797
1907	149	825	36,224	621,962
1908	68	175	25,293	708,285
1909	69	397	17,332	871,845
1910	84	1,335	21,280	718,635
1911	99	475	30,094	2,046,650
1912	150	989	40,511	1,099,208
Total	1,319	7,843	319,880	8,888,381