
LABOR DAY

Your Commissioners recommend that one day in each year be set apart by proclamation, to be observed throughout the Dominion as a statutory holiday, and that it be known as Labor Day.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Admirable systems of primary and of advanced instruction have been established in the several Provinces, by means of which the youth of Canada have educational advantages not surpassed in the world. Your Commissioners believe that these systems would be improved, and that great benefit would result, if technical knowledge were imparted in the common schools, in special schools or classes, or in colleges of technology.

APPRENTICE SYSTEM.

The apprentice system is almost a thing of the past. The factory system, the introduction of machinery and the division of labor have nearly put an end to it. In some trades apprentices are still taken. Instruction in technical schools is calculated to replace the old system to some extent. The Government might, as prizes for proficiency in technical schools, send a limited number of young men to foreign schools, where they would acquire knowledge of value to Canadian manufacturers, and would fit themselves to be teachers in like schools at home.

PATENT LAWS.

Your Commissioners believe the patent laws of the Dominion and the practice in the Patent Bureau to be susceptible of material improvement. (*See Appendix K*).

IMMIGRATION.

While the immigration of farmers and farm laborers will greatly benefit the country, it is believed that in the future money assistance to immigrants of every class may be properly withheld. Further, the sending to Canada of inmates of poor-houses and reformatories should be prohibited. Strict medical examination should be made at ports of landing and persons likely to become objects of charity and those having incurable diseases should be forbidden to land, and that importations of foreign workmen under contract be not permitted. (*See Appendix K*).

EXTENSION OF TRADE RELATIONS.

Your Commissioners think the Government may, with advantage, cause enquiries to be made, with a view to learn in what countries it is possible to sell Canadian products; also, that some system may be devised of accrediting Canadian commercial agents in foreign countries, yet so as not to involve governmental responsibility. Further, they suggest that enquiry be made whether encouragement may not be extended to the home production of some manufactured goods as well as raw materials now imported. (*See Appendix K*).

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

Within certain limits employers are now required to compensate workmen injured while in the discharge of their duties, or their heirs in case of death. Your Commissioners think the compensation should be recoverable even in cases where negligence on the part of the employer or his agents, or defect in machinery, has not caused the accident. The owners of machinery benefit by its use and should be primarily responsible for accidents caused by it. If all be placed on an equal footing no injustice will be done to manufacturers, since they will add to the price of their wares a sum sufficient to insure employes; and this extra charge for insurance should be considered when fixing the protection against foreign competition which manufacturers ought to enjoy. (*See Appendix G*).