

with a view to preventing any owner, contractor or other person against whom a lien is filed, removing any materials or otherwise lessening the value of the building, grounds, etc., included as security for the lien.

Woodmen's Lien Act.

The Woodmen's Lien Act and Threshers' Employees Act were drawn for the purpose of giving workmen in these two industries the same protection as is enjoyed by their fellow workers in other trades, and which are covered by The Mechanics' Lien Act.

Payment of Wages Act.

The Act respecting the Payment of Wages to Certain Employees might be termed the principal Act respecting our wage system and to which the Lien Acts just mentioned are merely auxiliary. This Act provides that all workers engaged by contractors, manufacturers, shop or store keepers shall be paid the entire amount of wages due in Canadian currency or in the notes of a chartered bank, or by accepted cheque, and the men shall be paid at least every seven days.

Government Fair Wages.

Whilst technically not labour legislation, nevertheless, the fair wage policy of the Government is of sufficient importance to warrant mention in a pamphlet of this kind. Under this policy the Government has provided that all contracts awarded by its various branches shall contain a schedule setting out the minimum wages that shall be paid by the contractor to the various classes of trades to be employed. This policy also extends to railway construction and operation. These wage schedules are drawn by the fair wage officer and prevent labour skinning on Government contracts during dull seasons in particular trades, and at all times assures a living wage to all men employed. The Government naturally has control over the rates of wages only on works undertaken by itself or aided by provincial funds; nevertheless, the fact that all contractors on such works must pay a fair and reasonable rate of wages has had the effect of establishing a living wage throughout the province, and one that is generally accepted by contractors.

THE FACTORIES SYSTEM.

The Factories Act.

Whilst the factory system has only of recent years begun to establish itself in the Province of Saskatchewan, nevertheless, the fact that we have at present well over two hundred factories employing approximately 4,500 people of whom over 500 are females, is sufficient reason for having on our statutes a Factories Act. However, even if the number of factories were only half what it is today our factory laws are nevertheless necessary not only to protect the factory workers, but also by a careful system of inspection, such as is maintained, we may prevent the sweating system and child labour evils being started in the province. And only those who have had actual experience know of the trouble to eradicate these evils once they get a foothold. Our factory laws contain all the provisions generally found in such Acts for the protection of the workers such as