

dealing, as occasion arises, with the differences between corporation and employee and the many labor problems that are of vital importance to the community at large. Month by month the *Labor Gazette* is issued, and for three cents a month, or twenty-five cents a year, the working man has a publication of over one hundred pages which informs him of all the current phases of labor matters. He may read there the reports of correspondents from the working classes in every section of the Dominion, giving him the fullest information regarding the condition of the labor market in the chief centres in every province; the current hours of labor, the rates of wages and the demands for labor in every trade and occupation; the contracts that are being let, the great works that are being undertaken and the expenditures that are to be made; the immigration returns, the trade disputes, industrial accidents of the month and the legal decisions affecting the status of the working classes. In short he is furnished by the Government and practically at the Government's expense with the fullest information to put him upon a footing of comparative equality of knowledge with the corporation and the employer whose wealth enables them to command the information which, but for the action of the Government, would not be available to the working man. Surely this is not a small matter.

But the practical character of the Government's policy does not rest here. All the machinery of the Department of Labor is ready to adjust differences or disputes as they may arise, and they are dealt with and adjusted, as instance after instance shows. The Conciliation Act provides for the appointment of a Conciliator to effect a settlement of industrial disputes. This Act has proved a most effective instrument and the wise intervention of the Department has effected a settlement of disputes involving tens of thousands of employees. Look at the strike of the Valleyfield Cotton Mill workers in 1900. There through the intervention of the Department a settlement was made where 3,000 employees were involved, at a time when the corporation had appealed for military protection. So with the strike of the longshore men involving 1,200 employees at Halifax in 1902; the strike of the steel workers involving over 1,200 workers at Sidney in 1904, and numerous other cases in which it was the wise conciliatory measures of the Department of Labor that adjusted the acute differences which existed, without the bloodshed, violence and riots which have become too common a feature in connection with the large strikes in the neighboring Republic.

Equally notable has been the important work done by the Commissions that have been appointed in the last few years. In 1903 a Labor Commission was appointed to investigate the nature and the causes of the industrial troubles that existed in British Columbia, particularly amongst the miners. The report of this