

the legislation enacted in Saskatchewan, it might not be out of place to mention some of the underlying principles or social institutions of the present day.

First of all, naturally, is the wage system itself. Under the wage system, the labourer takes upon himself the responsibility of securing work and of supporting his family. He must do this by selling his services to the masters of industry. He thus not only becomes a producer, but a merchant as well.

Second in order, and no less important, is the highly capitalised form of modern industry. To work successfully today in most lines of industry men must own or control a large capital. The great majority of men do not possess the abilities or opportunities to secure the large capital necessary for the successful conduct of a modern business. For the masses therefore it is true and increasingly true that once a wage earner always a wage earner. This permanency of status makes the labour problem in one respect a class struggle. The necessity of large capital for the conduct of modern business has naturally brought with it what is called the factory system, that is the erection of extensive plants employing hundreds of men, women and children, working under the foreman, whose only interest is to turn out a maximum of product at a minimum of expenses. This is attempted by introducing modern speeding up systems, overcrowding or substituting female labour for male labour, and even introducing child labour.

These, then, are what may be called the fundamental factors of our modern labour problem, the wage system, the factory system and the permanent status of the wage earning class.

Respecting the wage system, we have The Mechanics' Lien Act, Woodmen's Lien for Service Act, Threshers' Employees Act, and the Act respecting the Payment of Wages to Certain Employees. In our relation to the Factories system we have The Factories Act, Coal Mines Regulation Act, and The White Female Labour Act. For the protection of workmen as a class we have The Masters and Servants Act, The Building Trades Protection Act, an Act to provide for the safety of Electrical Workers, The Employment Agency Act and The Workmen's Compensation Act.

THE WAGE SYSTEM.

Mechanics' Lien Act.

The Mechanics' Lien Act, which was first passed in 1907 and has since then been amended many times, including the 1917 session of Legislature, provides a means whereby even the most humble labourer has a lien against the building or land upon which his labour is performed for the amount of wages due him. The lien of the labourer for wages takes priority over all other liens and may be filed at any time during the performance of the work or within 30 days after the completion of the service. The filing of the lien is simplified by the fact that the various forms to be used in filing liens are plainly set out and explained in the Act, and as a further safeguard to the inexperienced in such matters, Section 19 of the Act provides that no lien shall be invalidated by reason of failure to properly fill in forms or file liens. Provisions are also included