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#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Serious complaints have been made respecting the dangers to which railway hands are exposed. Your Commissioners are of opinion that the attention of Legislators should be given to this matter, especially with a view to enquiry whether running-boards on freight cars should not be widened, whether rails or guards may not be placed upon such cars, whether improved couplers may not be introduced, whether the air-brake may not be attached to all freight cars, and whether the buffers or dead-woods now used on some cars may not be made less dangerous. It is believed, also, that if railway employéés were paid more frequently than once in each month, the advantage to the men would greatly outweigh the expense to the companies.

#### FISHERIES.

Our fisheries are among the most important of Canadian industries. Benevolent governmental and legislative care and the judicious distribution of bounties have greatly fostered them. Testimony supports a belief that in several places the fisheries are injured by improper methods. (*See Appendix M*).

#### MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Much interesting and valuable testimony was taken in the mining regions of Nova Scotia. The chief complaints made by miners were that wages were not paid with sufficient frequency, that deductions from their wages for the support of schools were too high, that in some places they felt themselves compelled to deal at company stores, and (in Cape Breton) that the enforced stoppage of work in winter, owing to the closing of ports by ice, very seriously reduced their earnings. It was believed by some witnesses that if the railway to Louisbourg were restored sale would be found for coal during the winter months, and that mines could be operated throughout the year.

#### CERTIFICATED ENGINEERS.

There is serious danger in permitting unskilled men to control large steam engines and boilers. It is recommended that strict examination be made and certificates be issued to properly qualified persons, and that none who do not hold such certificates be permitted to remain in charge of engines exceeding a certain power, to be fixed by law, or of boilers used for heating factories or other large buildings. It is also recommended that frequent inspection of boilers be made by competent officials.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

In some parts of the Dominion the employment of children of very tender years is still permitted. This injures the health, stunts the growth and prevents the proper education of such children, so that they cannot become healthy men and women or intelligent citizens. It is believed that the regular employment in mills, factories and mines of children less than fourteen years of age should be strictly forbidden. Further, your Commissioners think that young persons should not be required to work during the night at any time, nor before seven o'clock in the morning during the months of December, January, February and March. (*See Appendix E*).

#### CHILD-BEATING.

The darkest pages in the testimony which follows are those recording the beating and imprisonment of children employed in factories. Your Commissioners earnestly hope that these barbarous practices may be removed, and such treatment made a penal offence, so that Canadians may no longer rest under the reproach that the lash and the dungeon are accompaniments of manufacturing industry in the Dominion.