

# BULLETIN

OF THE

## GOVERNMENT BUREAU OF LABOUR

*Minister:*  
HON. W. R. MOTHERWELL

*Secretary of the Bureau:*  
THOS. M. MOLLOY

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### INTRODUCTION.

Interest in the labour laws of Saskatchewan has been steadily growing during recent years, and in order to satisfy the demands for information on the subject the Bureau of Labour has decided to issue a pamphlet, which we believe will be of general interest to those who work for a daily wage.

This bulletin contains but a brief reference to the various laws enacted in the province, the object being more to acquaint the workers with the scope and nature of the laws than to render any legal interpretation of their provisions.

In addition to the following specified Acts, many regulations and orders were issued upon request of the Trade Unions, such as grants to cities for loans to unemployed, the giving of free copies of the provincial statutes to central labour bodies, the opening of free labour offices and so forth.

Respecting the labour legislation proper it is generally recognised that the framing of thorough, up-to-date laws for the protection or benefit of working classes, without retarding or interfering in any way with the progress of any essential industry, is a difficult task. Both in drafting and administering labour laws it must constantly be borne in mind that a large section of our working population is composed of people unaccustomed to legal restraint. There are also a great many employers unaccustomed to the operation of such laws, who would, naturally, because of that inexperience take the view that the state was interfering with their private business. It is gratifying, however, to find that both capital and labour have come to realise that all labour legislation of Saskatchewan is based upon broad principles looking to the mutual development and betterment of the interests of employer, employee and the province alike.

All Saskatchewan labour laws have for their object the amelioration of the conditions of the wage worker, and must not be considered as being designed to solve the labour problem, for that can only be accomplished by a total and complete change of our present economic conditions.

When we come to study the labour problem it divides up into a number of evils and abuses like sweating, child labour and industrial accidents. It is an economic fact that all labour problems have their origin in some well founded social institution. Therefore, before touching on any of