

Prior to that time, men had been toiling in the dark and damp and rock dust of the underground workings for eight, nine, ten, and even longer hours. The health of the workers was seriously affected, and great dissatisfaction existed among the miners by the haphazard and disorganized condition of affairs. On the first of January, 1914, the eight-hour day became the universal rule in underground workings. The benefit to the men, and to the industry as well, was marked and immediate. The miners settled down contentedly to regular work, and it is worthy of note that no general strike has taken place in the silver or gold regions during the five years in which the law has been in operation, until the present summer when the question of recognition of the Union caused trouble. The law is now recognized by all classes in the North as of inestimable benefit to both employers and employees.

Men and women cannot possibly live normal lives, or reach their highest development in citizenship, unless they are given sufficient time for rest and recreation. Man does not live by wages alone. The Liberal policy of the limitation of the hours of labour is reasonable, and its uniform application will give to industry a human touch of inestimable value to all.

The Factories Act.

The Liberals in the Legislature have repeatedly pressed for a revision of the Factories Act, which is much out of date. Effective protection of workers, particularly of women and children, is, however, more a matter of administration than that of the passing of laws. The Government has demonstrated its lack of interest in the welfare of the workers. The Liberal Party has remained consistent in its humanitarian policies in declaring for:

"Better inspection of factories and other industries where men and women are employed, particularly with a view to the protection of women, and a more rigid enforcement of child-labour regulations."

The Convention declared itself in favour of "insurance against sickness and unemployment, based on the principles of English law", for "mothers' pensions", and for the provision of "medical attendance and necessaries whenever required for the proper birth and upbringing of children."