

BUREAU OF LABOR—Province of Manitoba

The Bureau of Labor came into existence as a result of repeated solicitations of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, and an Act titled as "The Bureau of Labor Act" was enacted by the Legislature during the session of 1914-1915, and assented to on March 10th, 1915. This Act provided for the appointment of a secretary and such other officers as were deemed necessary and defined the duties of the Bureau as follows:—

To collect, assort, systematize and publish information and statistics relating to employment, wages and hours of labor, co-operation, strikes, lockouts or other labor difficulties, trades unions, labor organizations, the relations between labor and capital, and other subjects of interest to workmen throughout Manitoba, with such information relating to the commercial, industrial and sanitary condition of workmen, and the permanent prosperity of the industries of Manitoba, as the Bureau may be able to gather.

It soon became obvious that the Act was of little practical use in its then existing form, and the present Government on January 3rd, 1916, amended the Act by providing for the reorganization of the Bureau along practical lines, which amendment was assented to on March 10th, 1916, and at that time, the Bureau was charged with the enforcement of the following Acts:—

"The Manitoba Factories Act", which was made to include Chinese laundries.

"The Shops Regulation Act", on the Statutes but not previously enforced.

"The Bake Shops Act", on the Statutes but not previously enforced.

"The Building Trades Protection Act".

"The Public Buildings Act".

"The Steam Boiler Act", in which was incorporated "The Steam Boiler Inspection Act" and "The Stationary Engineer's Act", which includes the examination and licensing of steam engineers.

"The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act", new legislation passed at the 1916 session of the Legislature.

"The Fair Wage Act", also new legislation passed at the 1916 session of the Legislature.

At the 1917 session of the Legislature, there were amendments made to both "The Factories Act" and "The Shops Act", whereby it became essential for an employer, before employing any young person under the age of sixteen years, to obtain a birth certificate or a written statement from the child's parents, also, exempting all persons under the age of seventeen years from working overtime.

"The Electrician's License Act" was also passed at the 1917 session of the Legislature and became law on the 1st January, 1918, and the Bureau is charged with the enforcement of same.

At the 1917-1918 session of the Legislature, new legislation, viz., "The Minimum Wage Act" was passed and became law on the 15th April, 1918.

On the 1st May, 1918, the licensing of Moving Picture Machine operators was transferred from the department of the Provincial Treasurer to the Bureau, so that at the present time the Bureau is charged with the enforcement of the following Acts:—

"The Factories Act".

"The Shops Regulation Act".

"The Steam Boiler and Freight Elevator Act".

"The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act".

"The Fair Wage Act".

"The Building Trades Protection Act".

"The Bake Shops Act".

"The Public Buildings Act".

"The Electrician's License Act".

"The Public Amusements Act".—(Clause 18; governing licensing of Moving Picture Operators.)

"The Minimum Wage Act".

FAIR WAGE ACT

This Act, which was passed at the 1916 session of the Legislature and came into force on March 10th, 1916, was the first legislation of this kind in the Province.

Prior to 1916 Fair Wage schedules were made by an official known as the "Fair Wage Officer".

In January, 1916, a delegation from the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council waited on the Government and asked for certain amendments to the existing schedule.

At that time, the Bureau suggested the formation of a Fair Wage Board, which would meet once a year and asked for certain amendments to the existing schedule.

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Pursuant to the provisions of this Act, a Fair Wage Board was appointed in May, 1916, composed of Mr. S. C. Oxtun, Deputy Minister of Public Works, (chairman); Mr. W. J. Davidson, representing the Winnipeg Builders' Exchange, and Mr. George Armstrong, representing the Winnipeg Building Trades Federation.

In 1917, it was decided to increase the Board by appointing two additional members, and Mr. J. W. Morley was appointed to represent the Builders' Exchange and Mr. Walter Owens was appointed to represent Labour.

During 1918, the Board held eight meetings and further revised the schedule.

It is pleasing to note that the awards of the Fair Wage Board have had a very far reaching effect, inasmuch as they cover all basic building trades in the Province of Manitoba, and the findings of the Board are being used by the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg School Board, and practically all contractors of any note in the Province.

STRIKES AND LABOR DIFFICULTIES

It is gratifying to note that the work of the Bureau in this connection has been very successful. There are on the letters from both employers and labor organizations expressing their appreciation of services rendered during the various strikes and labor difficulties.

The Bureau has also done considerable work in bringing about a closer cooperation between employers and employees, thereby avoiding many labor disputes.

STATEMENT

showing number of inspections made, orders issued by and number of accidents reported to the Bureau in connection with the different Acts coming under its jurisdiction from 1915 to 1918.

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of orders Issued	Accidents reported	
			Fatal	Non-fatal
1915	1,154	1,220	10	103
1916	5,711	4,577	9	290
1917	8,546	6,277	8	533
1918	10,964	6,577	21	1,102

NB.—RE ACCIDENT REPORTS.

The substantial increase shown in the above statement is due to the better observance of the law in connection with reporting of accidents rather than an actual increase in the number of accidents, and steps are being taken by the Bureau to attain a higher standard of efficiency in "Accident Prevention", because it is deemed far wiser to prevent rather than compensate.