

towards the equalisation of taxation and to make the large corporations shoulder their fair share of the taxation necessary to the conduct of public affairs.

Free School Books.

In 1908 an Act was passed providing for free text-books in the schools in this province. It is worthy of note that in the early part of the same year a deputation consisting of the officers of the Moose Jaw and Regina Trades and Labour Councils waited upon the Government and strongly urged the need of free text-books for the proper education of the children of the wage earner.

Compulsory School Attendance.

Under the provisions of The School Act parents and guardians are compelled to send children to school for a given number of days each year. Local school boards are empowered to appoint truant officers to enforce this clause of the Act.

Other Acts in which the interests of working men are protected may be cited as follows: Mechanics' and Literary Institutes, Children's Protection, Investigation of Accidents by Fire, Arbitration, and Hospital Acts.

Although at present no legislation is necessary respecting prison labour, it is worthy of mention that the Government went on record as being opposed to the employment of prison labour in competition with free labour. This policy was established when the Government refused to allow prisoners to do the excavation work necessary for the erection of the Broad Street Bridge, Regina, or to cut ice on Wascana Creek for sale in the City of Regina.

The Bureau of Labour.

All labour legislation is centred in one Department branch of Government known as the Bureau of Labour. The Bureau was organised in 1911 by an Act of the Legislature. The primary object of this Bureau is to collect, assort, systematise and publish information and statistics relating to industrial and labour questions. Information and statistics thus compiled will be useful, not only as a faithful record of the growth of the province along industrial and mechanical lines, but also a guide to legislation designed to solve the many problems constantly arising in our ever changing industrial life.

The officials of the Bureau have also charge of the administration of many of the above mentioned Acts, such as Factories, Building Trades Protection, Employment Agencies and The Coal Mines Act. The good offices of the Bureau are always available to the employer and employee alike that it may be of service as a mediator in strikes, lockouts or other labour difficulties. A library of labour laws and related subjects is being gradually built up, and is already frequently used by both employers and employees for reference works.

A number of the Acts mentioned in the foregoing have been printed in pamphlet form, and by special arrangement, the Bureau is enabled to supply copies free to central labour bodies. Trade union and other employees may always feel quite free to write the Bureau at any time respecting the labour laws, conditions of trade in the different parts of the province, rates of wages, building operations or any other subject of interest to the wage earners.