

TIME LOST DUE TO STRIKES CUT, HIPEL REPORTS

Only One-sixteenth of 1921 Figures, Labor Minister Tells M.L.A.'s

OPPOSE LONG HOURS

A reduction in loss of working days through strikes during the eleven months of the present fiscal year, was reported in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. Norman Hipel, Minister of Labor, in the course of his budget address. In that period time lost in strikes was only 33,325 days, one-ninth of the time lost in 1937 and one-sixteenth of the time lost in 1921.

"In other words," said Mr. Hipel, "the loss of labor in days, in work that is vital to the war effort, is only one day, compared to sixteen in 1921. This is due partly to the conciliation officers of the department and the continued building up of goodwill between the department, employers and employees."

Mr. Hipel said his department was opposed to excessive hours, even in wartime. It resulted in a production drop, poor workmanship and greater wear and tear on machines.

"They tried long hours in England after Dunkirk and found it was so unsatisfactory that they have now reverted to shorter hours," said the Labor Minister.

Much of the unrest in factories was due to "high pressure, time-study efficiency men," Mr. Hipel declared. It was his belief that much of this was carried too far "with the result that workers are burned out soon after they reach the age of forty and become charges on the Province."

Head Off Trouble.

"It is our procedure to try and avoid strikes within the Province during wartime," he continued "our inspectors are now trained as conciliatory experts and strive, at all times, to get employers and employees to settle down together and talk over their differences. The inspectors are also instructed to notify the department if they hear of any trouble brewing. In this way we are often able to head off impending differences."

Classing the Workmen's Compensation Act as the best of its kind in the world, the Minister gave a resume of the operation of that act, which has been in operation for twenty-five years. During that time over one million claims have been settled. "During the past year there has been an increase in the number of industrial accidents, but this is due to the increased activity in industry. But the number is 6,000 less than in the peak year of employment, 1929," he said.

Quite a number of questions were directed at the Minister regarding

Bachelor M.L.A. Gets 'Threat'

George Doucett, Lanark County Conservative, and a bachelor, yesterday admitted in the Legislature that his women constituents were pressing for the right to sit on juries and were backing their demands with down-right threats.

As evidence he read a three-verse night letter that he had received from a constituent in Carleton Place. The threat was contained in three lines of the last verse. They were:

"Here lies a man, Doucett by name,
For his passing had himself to blame
(and the reason) He couldn't trust women to serve on juries."

minimum wages. "Minimum wages are only the lowest wage. The employees have the right to organize and seek higher rates from their employers. Year by year more of the employers of the Province are complying with the act, and last year only 2.2 per cent of the employers were violators. Against 887 complaints in 1936 there were only 188 this last year," he said.

Workers Protected.

War industries have further broadened the work of protecting the workers under the Factory Inspection Act, and a number of new plants have been built to produce munitions which have not been manufactured here previously. Officials of the department visited similar factories in the United States, and as a result regulations were made, not as drastic as those in Great Britain, but considerably more drastic than those of the United States.