

**NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL
AND LABOR STATISTICS FOR
THE STATE OF MAINE 1905**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649057535

Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics for the State of
Maine 1905 by Various

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AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1906

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF
INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR STATISTICS,
AUGUSTA, December 31, 1905.

To His Excellency, William T. Cobb, Governor of Maine:

SIR: I have the honor to present the report of the Bureau of
Industrial and Labor Statistics for 1905.

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL W. MATTHEWS,
Commissioner.



INTRODUCTION.

The extended report on Trade Unions is, perhaps, the most interesting and valuable work of the Bureau during the past year. The investigations were carried on by a competent and candid member of the unions and the results are as nearly complete and accurate as they could be made in the time and with the means allowed to the special agent. The article furnishes a complete directory of the unions in the State, which will be found a great convenience, although it is to be regretted that a few of the unions failed to respond to the blanks furnished them, and therefore the information given in the list, is, in these few cases, meagre and incomplete.

The general information resulting from this investigation may be briefly summarized as follows: Number of local organizations in 50 cities, towns and plantations, 212; 194 unions report membership amounting to 13,798. This shows an increase of several hundred members since our last investigation. While many of the weaker organizations have dropped out of existence, returns have been received from 34 new unions which, added to the numbers in the older organizations, give an aggregate total membership as stated above.

Maine has enjoyed a good degree of prosperity during the past year in all its varied industries. Its workers have been well employed at remunerative wages, and content and satisfaction with conditions have generally prevailed. It is gratifying to know that the intelligence and character of our working men are such as to induce reasonable demands on their part, and conciliatory and fair treatment on the part of employers. Thus friction has been avoided and good feeling promoted. A few minor labor difficulties have occurred which are described in the article, but violence and destructive methods have, in no instance, taken place.

The spirit of Trade Unionism in Maine is opposed to strikes until all other means of adjustment are exhausted, and the general character and loyalty of the union membership are a guarantee against violent and unlawful measures and methods.

An article on The Trade Agreement is included, giving the views of several prominent men on this important subject, and affording many valuable suggestions.

An indication of the prosperity which has prevailed during the year, is the exhibit of factories, mills and shops for manufacturing purposes, enlarged, completed, or in process of erection. The aggregate of money expended is \$2,303,410, an amount exceeded only during four years of the fifteen in which reports from the assessors of towns, cities and plantations have been made to the bureau.

A brief article on the railroads shows a gratifying increase in mileage and business, a sure indication of the general progress in the development and improvement of the resources of the State. The extension of the Bangor and Aroostook system to the seacoast makes a prominent feature in the railroad development during the past year, opening up as it does, a new and very important outlet for the products of Maine's flourishing and rapidly developing northern sections.

The poultry industry is an important one and has been considered worthy of attention by this bureau. No attempt has been made to make a general canvass of the business, the total statistics of which are obtained from other sources, but many of the more extensive plants are here described. These plants are generally located near cities and larger towns, and especially in the neighborhood of prominent summer resorts. The descriptions of these furnish much interesting and valuable information and give a general idea of the extent of the industry in the State, and especially in the localities where it is carried on as a specialty.

The manufacture of clothing is an industry which has been given attention by the bureau and makes an interesting feature in the report of this year.

Interesting descriptions of two prominent and unique enterprises are given, The Lakeside Press, the only extensive plant in the State of its kind, and the Paris Manufacturing Company, one of the largest wood novelty plants in the world.

During the existence of the bureau a great number of Maine's industries have been carefully investigated, the results of which are to be found in the annual reports. For convenience of reference a general index of the eighteen previous reports has, at the expense of considerable labor, been prepared and incorporated into the report of this year.

The report of the Inspector of Factories, Workshops, Mines and Quarries, is herein published in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The commissioner renews the expression of his obligations for faithful and efficient services rendered him in the prosecution of his work by Major Charles J. House, who has been connected with the bureau as its chief clerk for many years, and to special agents Francis Wiggin and Roscoe A. Eddy.