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1925, providing for a *public mediator* being appointed (for three years at a time). When conflicts of this kind arise, causing a stoppage of work, or if there is a reason to fear that a stoppage may occur, the public mediator shall, when negotiations for a private arrangement have been broken off, and if the dispute, on account of its extent or character, may be considered dangerous to the community, call before him the representatives of both workers and employers, on whom it is incumbent to obey the summons, and try to bring about a peaceful settlement by inducing the parties to come to an agreement by mutual abatement of differences.

### PROTECTION OF WORKERS

As factory work of any description is still in its infancy in Iceland, legislation providing for the protection of workers has, up to the present day, moved very slowly indeed, except as regards the fishing trade, where the need for legislation on this head first made itself felt. The maritime law of 1914 contains special provisions aiming at ensuring the payment of wages (hire) to seamen. Under the same act the expenses of medical treating or lying in hospital etc. of any of the crew is payable by the shipowner. A law of 1903 established the inspection of the condition and seaworthiness of ships. Various amendments and supplements to this act were passed in 1922 and 1929, providing, among other things, for the appointment of a special inspector who is to see to it that all Icelandic vessels are inspected and surveyed. The maximum working day on Icelandic steam trawlers was in 1921 limited to 18 hours (meal-times included). This again was shortened to 16 hours in 1928.

In 1929 an act was passed respecting the status of artisan apprentices, fixing their hours of labour per day, etc.

In various statutes from past times there may be found regulations enforcing Sabbatarianism more or less strictly. And under an act of 1926 all indoor and outdoor work, causing noise, as well as keeping shops open on sacred days of the established church are, with a few exceptions, forbidden. But according to a law of 1917 municipal councils may decide as to the closing hours of shops in their respective municipalities.

Just after the beginning of the present century (law of 1902), the cash-payment of wages was made compulsory, and according to law of 1929 wages are now paid every Saturday. Under the same act it is made easier for workers to sue employers for wages due.