

The Social and Economic Conditions Relating to Working Conditions

Introduction:

The employers had the upper hand. In some territories unemployment reached a high of 50%! The demand for work was so high that they felt that they had a right to exploit their workers. To make matters worst Trade Unions were not legalized before 1938 so the workers were at the mercy of the employers.

- 1.** They worked for long hours, up to ten hours and more for very little pay.
- 2.** Some worked from Monday to Saturday. They were not given pay for overtime.
- 3.** Those who worked in the factories were exposed to dangerous machines. They were not compensated if injured in an accident. They were merely sent home. They had to bear any medical expenses involved in the treatment of the injury that they sustained.
- 4.** They were not given any vacation or sick leave.
- 5.** Women were not granted maternity leave.
- 6.** The employers often dismissed workers unfairly.
- 7.** The women suffered from sexual harassment.
- 8.** Children were often employed in the factories and fields.
- 9.** Those worked in the agricultural industry especially sugar, suffered from seasonal unemployment. They were employed for only a part of the year and the rest of the year they were left to starve.