

soon as practical, conduct a competitive promotional examination open only to the employees of the Department and who shall have had at the time of taking the examination not less than three years experience in the work of the Department. The Deputy Commissioner, in the event of the absence, death, resignation, disability, or disqualification of the Commissioner, or in case the office of the Commissioner shall for any cause become vacant, shall have and exercise all the powers and duties vested by law in the Commissioner.

All other employees of the office of Commissioner of Labor and Statistics shall be transferred to the Department of Labor and Industry and retain their present classifications under the Merit System as obtained through examination and shall receive such salary scales as set by the Salary Standard Board.

The Commissioner is authorized and empowered to appoint or employ such deputies, inspectors, assistants and employees of every kind as may be necessary for the performance of the duties now or hereafter imposed upon him by this or any other law; provided, however, that such appointments and employments shall in each and every case be subject to the approval of the Governor and the compensation to be allowed therefor, be subject to the approval of the Salary Standard Board.

2. It shall be the duty of the said Commissioner:

1st. To collect statistics concerning and examine into the condition of labor in this State, with especial reference to wages, and the causes of strikes and disagreements between employers and employees.

2nd. To collect information in regard to the agricultural conditions and products of the several counties of the State, the acreage under cultivation and planted to the various crops, the character and price of lands, the live stock, et cetera, and all other matters pertaining to agricultural pursuits, which may be of general interest and calculated to attract immigration to the State.

3rd. To collect information in regard to the mineral products of the State, the output of mines, quarries and so forth, and the manufacturing industries.

4th. To collect information in regard to railroads and other transportation companies, shipping and commerce.

5th. To keep a bureau of general information, and to this end all officers and institutions of this State, including officers of the General Assembly, are directed to transmit to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry, all reports, as soon as published.

6th. To classify and arrange the information and data so obtained, and as soon as practicable after entering upon the duties of its office, publish the same in substantial book form and annually thereafter revise and republish the same.