

As to Saskatchewan and Alberta, seeing that neither has at present advanced legislation, the logical move would be to appoint a joint Commission of Inquiry with the possibility of a united Compensation Board and a merging of all industries in mutual Government insurance upon the Ontario plan.

Even though the principle of mutual insurance should prove to be not thoroughly satisfactory in any one province or group of provinces, there would be therein no reason why in the future there could not be a Canada-wide compensation law under the auspices of the Dominion Government. If, on the contrary, experience should develop, as most authorities believe it will, a quite general satisfaction with provincial laws after the Ontario model, there would be in that fact the strongest possible reason for believing that a nation-wide statute would be even more advantageous to all concerned. The variety and number of industries would then come far short of what Germany is coping with; the stability of rates and finances would be secured by the widest possible diffusion of the risks; the saving in management would be a large item; the existing funds could readily be consolidated and experience in the provinces would have provided a corps of well-trained experts competent to deal satisfactorily with the larger problem. Agitation, legislation, litigation and time will be required to bring this about, but none of them in greater measure than has preceded any great advance step in our national life.

Such a scheme would involve great problems; to secure efficiency and fairness, to keep the administration of the funds from becoming the politician's tool, to free the pay-roll of the Board from becoming the resting place of the political freebooter, to keep the system in touch with human needs on the one hand and economic demands on the other instead of becoming entangled in the meshes of the proverbially vacuous "red-tape"—all these questions will press for solution. But they would be no more acute than in any other great and necessary department of our Government. To solve them, we must look, not to the carping critic who drags forth unsatisfactory details to bolster up his special interest, but to the growing body of public opinion, and we must foster the growth of this enlightened conscience by cultivating a broader education, a more independent and truthful journalism, a more stable culture of Canadian youth and a recognition of the interest of each as being the concern of all.

All authorities agree that the old defences of negligence, common employment and assumption of risk should be done away with as being parts of "the law of the pack"; that a workman or