

quently to engage in a costly litigation, in which his antagonist, though nominally his employer, is really some wealthy and powerful insurance corporation, which is interested from a pecuniary point of view in defeating the claim, quite regardless of its merits. Both employers and workmen are agreed that the principle on which any new legislation should be based is that of insurance; but while the employers claim that the cost of providing such insurance should be shared with them, by both the workmen, and the government; the workmen, on the other hand, claim that they should be wholly free from any contribution whatever to the insurance fund. The claim of the employers is based on the alleged facts that (1) a large proportion of the accidents in industrial occupations (fully 25 per cent.) is due solely to the fault of workmen themselves; (2) that it is in the interest of the community generally that workmen meeting with accidents in the course of their employment, should be saved from becoming a burden on the public; and, therefore, that the public should pay a share of the compensation in such cases. The workmen, on the other hand, argue that those who derive profit and benefit from the services of workmen, should take the lean with the fat, and bear the loss occasioned by accidents to their employees.

Not unnaturally the question arises whether, in the final result, it is not the public which really bears the burden of making compensation; for by the inevitable law of self-preservation the employer will add to the cost of his goods or of his work which the public is called on to pay, not only the cost of making compensation to his workmen, but an additional sum besides, to meet interest thereon. And thus it comes to be considered whether, in the interest of the public, the cost of compensation to workmen should not be provided by general taxation, and whether the fund so to be raised should not be administered by the government in some simple manner, so as to save all the circuitous and costly proceedings which are apt at present to intervene between the occurrence of an accident and the recovery of compensation therefor. Such a suggestion from