

of the working men of the province as expressed to the committee of the Legislature was that The Saskatchewan Workmen's Compensation Act constitutes the best legislation on this subject in existence anywhere in Canada, and probably in the world. So in earnest were the workers to retain the present Act that all the various unions, brotherhoods and other working men's societies organised in one body, secured one of the best labour lawyers in the west and presented a united opposition to any movement which might deprive them of the benefits of the present Act. As a result the new Bill was withdrawn by the Government and The Saskatchewan Workmen's Compensation Act as passed in 1911 is still on the statute books and is the law of this province respecting industrial accidents.

#### Changes in City Act.

An amendment of more than ordinary importance to the toilers was made to The City Act. This amendment so altered that Act as not only to exempt householders from the payment of the poll tax, but also to give them a vote in all civic elections (money bylaws excepted) by reason of the fact that only property owners were formerly allowed a voice in civic elections the great body of working men were practically disfranchised, with the result that the demands of labour were given little attention by the governing bodies of some cities. In addition to being disfranchised, the wage worker was required to pay a poll tax of \$3 per year, which many nonhouseholders, by reason of having no permanent abode, escaped paying. This amendment to The City Act has met with the approbation of every working man in Saskatchewan. The hours of voting in civic elections have also been extended to nine o'clock in the evening in order that those who are compelled to work all day may have an opportunity of voting in the evenings.

#### The Single Tax.

Another important feature of The City Act is the amendment whereby city councils may adopt the principles of the single tax, provided the coming into force of this system of taxation is made gradual and spread over a period of four years. The single tax system of municipal taxation has long been sought by the trade unions and forms plank No. 7 of their platform of principles.

#### Equalisation of Taxation.

With the object of having the larger financial interests contribute their proportionate share of the public revenues, there have been placed on the statute books two Acts, one known as The Corporations Taxation Act, and the other as The Railway Taxation Act.

The Corporations Taxation Act imposes a special tax on all banks, loan companies, trust companies, insurance companies, telegraph and express companies as well as on certain real estate firms doing business in the province. The Railway Taxation Act exacts from all railway companies owning or operating lines or part of a line within the province a tax varying from one-half of 1 per cent. to 3 per cent. of the gross earnings of such lines. The yearly revenue from the taxation imposed under these two Acts is considerable. The effect of the law is to tend