

anything else that it may be pointed to this Province as having the banner Act on workmen's compensation in this Dominion of Canada. And, therefore, the Trades and Labour Councils of various cities are holding public meetings in which this question can be discussed and its merits and demerits pointed out. And therefore, tonight, we have requested Mr. Bowser, who is the author of the Bill, to appear before you and explain to you the objects and the different clauses of the Bill, and we have asked other speakers here tonight to criticize the Bill. We have Mr. Oliver with us, who is on the opposite side in politics to Mr. Bowser, and we have Mr. Hawthornthwaite, who has had some considerable experience in the House over James Bay, and knows considerable about workmen's compensation; and we have Mr. Watchman, the president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, who is here tonight representing the desires and wishes of organized labour. Therefore, we have these men of all shades of thought on this particular proposition, and I desire that you will give your earnest attention, and refrain as much as possible from doing anything that will make this meeting unharmonious.

I will now ask Mr. Bowser to address you and explain the draft Act of the Workmen's Compensation which he has introduced into the House. (Applause).

#### MR. BOWSER'S SPEECH

Mr. Bowser: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I must reiterate the opinion expressed by the chairman, that this meeting cannot tonight in any sense be considered a partisan meeting, as we have all shades of politics, both represented by the Conservative, Liberal, and as well by Labour, to discuss what perhaps is one of the most important pieces of legislation that has been introduced by our Government during the time we have been in power, and particularly during the last session.

I must in the first instance, express my appreciation of the courtesy of the Trades and Labour Council in asking me to appear tonight at this crowded meeting, in order to explain the different sections of the Workmen's Compensation Act which I had the honour of introducing in the closing days of the session just ended. I particularly take it as an honour to be asked by the Trades and Labour people of this city to explain the Act in detail, in order that we may have a better appreciation of what this piece of legislation means; and at the same time, I wish to state that so far as the Government is concerned, we are only too anxious to receive every possible criticism as to the Bill itself. It is in no sense of the term a contentious piece of legislation, and it is for that reason that this meeting tonight, in the political sense, is