

the health of the worker is undoubtedly a State consideration, but it is not one that comes within the purview of a compensation Act. The main object of such an Act is, what its name implies, that a workman injured in his employment should obtain a sufficient payment, which, while it is not large enough to induce him to malingering (consciously or unconsciously), should prevent him being dependent on charity. The duty of preventing accident is in our own country fully recognized by the State, and the various and minute Factory Acts show that it is quite alive to this. But when you examine the statistics of industrial accident in Germany—and although I have no statistics of our own country I do not know why they should be any different—and see that about 75 per cent. of the accidents that happen are due either to the fault of the workman or to the inevitable risk of the industry, it becomes apparent in how small a number the supervision of the State can have any effect, and therefore the compensation is provided for that very large percentage which is quite out of State or any other control.

COMPANIES' PRACTICE.

Then, with regard to the second part of the proposition. Although the primary duty of the insur-

ance companies is to pay the compensation for which the employer is liable, and no other duty is cast on them, is it true to say that the prevention of accidents receives no consideration? In our own country we are all familiar with the increased rating that is put on to an employer in whose works an abnormal number of accidents persistently happen; and it is brought home to such an employer that notwithstanding factory inspection, if through careless management or plant not well maintained his men suffer, he has to pay directly for such neglect. We have also the inspection of colliery risks, under which independent inspectors, acting on behalf of the insurance companies, survey every colliery that is proposed for insurance, with a view to securing that, quite independent of the Government inspection, every possible precaution for safety is taken.

Again, in the United States of America, the companies have what is called the merit rating system. There the absence of a system of factory legislation like our own makes more important the action of the insurance companies. Every risk is inspected and various allowances are made off the standard rate for the trade for various safeguards and protections and at the same time increases are made to that rate when there is an absence of these protections. I think, therefore, that we may say that where the companies are well organised and work together there is no lack of endeavour to do everything possible to prevent the happening of accidents, though at the same time I contend it is not their duty or function.

(To be Continued.)

A statistical genius has now discovered that the increase in the value of automobiles manufactured in the United States during the last ten years is about equal to the increase in policy loans. The one increase was \$500 millions, the other \$545 millions. Therefore, all policy loans of the past ten years except \$45 millions were used for buying automobiles. Which is absurd.

1848 "Old and Tried" 1916

GLENS FALLS

Insurance Company

GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK

Abstract from 66th Annual Statement, January 1, 1916

TOTAL CASH ASSETS \$5,859,946.44

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$500,000.00
Unpaid Losses	233,931.99
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	2,625,838.07
Reserve for Taxes, Dividend, etc.	245,967.08
	\$3,605,737.14

Net Surplus over all Liabilities \$2,254,209.30

Policyholders' Surplus \$2,754,209.30

FIRE, TORNADO AND AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Agencies throughout the Canadian Provinces

Montreal Office: Lewis Building

MACKENZIE & HANSON, General Agents

OPPORTUNITIES

in Life Insurance are many.

FOR AN AGENCY, ADDRESS

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LTD.

Established 1848. Funds \$50,000,000

GRESHAM BUILDING - - - MONTREAL

"THE OLDEST SCOTTISH FIRE OFFICE"

THE CALEDONIAN

INSURANCE CO. OF EDINBURGH.

Founded 1805.

Head Office for Canada,

**DOMINION EXPRESS BUILDING
Montreal**

**JOHN G. BORTHWICK
Canadian Manager.**