

earlier Commissions on this Continent have left severely alone the question of the Common Law right and there follows in their report, as a natural sequence, the timely recommendation that it is not for the State to take up the cudgel as insurer of the employer in any dispute with injured workmen which might involve litigation.

Whilst it is reasonable to suppose that labour never did thoroughly realize anywhere on this Continent that in advocating State Insurance they were selling the Common Law right it is difficult to find the true reason for their stand in the matter. Did they expect a greater measure of liberality in the settlement of claims at the hands of the State than had been obtained from the employer direct or through an Insurance company? If so this is purely a question of additional benefits and the more direct way would have been to ask for a revision of the definition and scale of compensation. In this connection it should be said in fairness, however, that in the Province of Ontario and many States of the Union there was no form of compensation law in force prior to the inauguration of State Insurance. The system existing there consisted of

the incomplete Employers' Liability type depending on negligence and this gave rise to a desire for relief on the part of labour in cases where negligence could not be proved. The propaganda of certain parties interested in the production of a State system, in territories where there was no pre-existing compensation benefits led many persons into the belief that fixed compensation could only be secured through such a system and the advantages of a compensation form of law apart from State administration as in England were generally unknown to these persons.

(To be continued)

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By order of the Board,

A. P. LESPERANCE, General Manager.

Montreal, 28th August, 1920.



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