

The Liberals advocate the establishment by the Government of a permanent Industrial Insurance Commission. This commission is to have full charge of a system providing positive compensation for injuries received during employment, without recourse to litigation, and giving employees the benefit of accident insurance at minimum cost.

Such insurance is automatic and may or may not be compulsory. The principle is the same as that in practice in railway construction camps, where workmen are assessed a small sum per month to cover hospital and medical expenses in case of accident or sickness. There would, however, be this difference, that the Government would be responsible for the administration of the insurance, whereas on railway construction the kind of service provided is largely optional with the contractors. Sometimes it is good, but in many cases both the hospital and medical services are farcical grafts.

The Compensation Act has remained in its present incomplete, narrow and restricted state ever since 1902, and the present Government having been in office practically ten years, have made not the slightest effort to render it more efficient or to remove some of its anomalies or to extend its practical benefits to employments to which in all reasonableness it should have been made to apply.

