

Final Report

ON

LAWS RELATING TO THE LIABILITY OF EMPLOYERS TO MAKE COMPENSATION TO THEIR EMPLOYEES FOR INJURIES RECEIVED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT WHICH ARE IN FORCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND AS TO HOW FAR SUCH LAWS ARE FOUND TO WORK SATISFACTORILY.

By

THE HON. SIR WILLIAM RALPH MEREDITH, C.J.O., Commissioner

To His Honour SIR JOHN MORISON GIBSON, K.C.M.G., K.C., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to report that I have concluded the enquiries which I was by Your Honour's Commission bearing date the 30th day of June, 1910, appointed to make "as to the laws relating to the liability of employers to make compensation to their employees for injuries received in the course of their employment which are in force in other countries, and as to how far such laws are found to work satisfactorily," and on the first day of April, 1913, I submitted to Your Honour a draft bill embodying such changes in the law as in my opinion should be adopted in this Province, and I now proceed to state my reasons for recommending that the draft bill should be passed into law.

At the outset of the enquiry it was contended by those who spoke on behalf of the workingmen: (1) That the law of Ontario is entirely inadequate in the conditions under which industries are now carried on to provide just compensation for those employed in them who meet with injuries, or suffer from industrial diseases contracted in the course of their employment; and (2) that under a just law the risks arising from these causes should be regarded as risks of the industries and that compensation for them should be paid by the industries.

With these two propositions those representing the employers expressed their agreement, though it is fair to say that it was probably not intended to agree that compensation should be paid in respect of industrial diseases.

Agreeing as I did with the contention of the workingmen there remained only to be considered in what form and by what means the compensation should be provided.

For the purpose of reaching a conclusion as to this, and in obedience to the directions of the Commission, I made enquiry as to the laws in force in the principal European countries, in the United States of America and in the Provinces of Canada. I also visited Belgium, England, France, and Germany, and consulted those concerned in administering the laws of those four countries, and others