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Insurance Regulation. **A**N interesting paper upon "The Government Regulation of Insurance Companies" is that of Prof. Maurice H. Robinson, of the University of Illinois. It was first given at the recent convention of the American Economic and the Political Science Associations held in Providence, R.I. Prof. Robinson advocates revision of the insurance laws. "Notwithstanding the national character of the insurance companies," he says, "we will cling to the antiquated method of State control, while Germany and Switzerland, with their modern constitutions, have changed to meet the new problems. Consequently we have the intolerable condition of conflicting laws, examinations by many States, and none of them sufficiently exhaustive, taxation varying from a normal fee to exorbitant dues, legislative hold-ups, and junketing examinations, until insurance has become too expensive and sometimes more risky than the conditions it aims to alleviate."

Eight Hour Legislation. **M**R. Verville, M.P., has introduced a bill providing that every Dominion Government contract shall contain a stipulation, that no labourer, workman or mechanic in the employment of the contractor or any sub-contractor, shall be permitted to work more than eight hours a day, except in case of extraordinary emergency, caused by fire, flood, or danger to life or property; on pain of the contract becoming null and void. This is a most radical interference with the liberty of the subject. Not merely of the contractor but of the labourer, the workman, the mechanic. From the moment such a law goes into operation, it puts a heavy handicap upon the Canadian workman, in his competition for a livelihood with the foreign workman who is under no such restriction. Such legislation is an appeal to the prejudices of the working

classes, based upon their assumed ignorance of political economy. We are heartily in favour of reasonable hours of labours, of recreation and of rest, for all classes, but it is in the best interests of Canadian working-men, that these shall be adjusted not by arbitrary parliamentary action, which is calculated to do infinitely more harm than good, but by the natural law of supply and demand,

U. S. Trade Concessions.

THE discussion at Ottawa last week regarding the Waterways Commission led to an interesting reference to the improbability of trade concessions from the United States. Mr. E. A. Lancaster referred to the disposition of the United States to consider a settlement of outstanding questions with the Dominion, including Niagara River power matters. Holding that Canada was entitled to 75 or 80 p.c. of the water going over the Falls, Mr. Lancaster protested that the proposal of the Waterways Commission was far too liberal to our neighbours. In the event of an equal division of waters the member for Lincoln urged that there should be some *quid pro quo*. The Premier made clear in the course of his reply that trade concessions at any rate were not to be looked for, and certainly not to be asked for by Canada.

"We have been looking for trade concessions for a long time, but we do not look for them any more now. We have abandoned that idea long ago. We do not care any more to have those trade concessions. There was a time when we would have given a great deal to have trade concessions from our American neighbours; they chose in their own way to refuse these; we have done pretty well without them, and at the present time we do not expect anything of that nature."

Coming at a time when Secretary Root was visiting the Capital, Sir Wilfrid's words were notable.