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COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES TO CANADIAN WORKMEN.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

In the modern world there has been no greater development along any line than the growth of our vast industrial system. In that world of industry itself there is no more serious problem than the adjusting of the relations between the capitalistic and the labouring classes. In fact, Viscount Bryce has called this problem the greatest unfinished enterprise of the world. This essay does not attempt to deal with the causes, the consequences or the solution of our industrial problem. This discussion is concerned only with measures for the securing of fair and adequate compensation for the worker who is injured or killed in the course of his employment; the Canadian situation is our field for special study.

(1) Labour in Industry.

The tendency to look upon the labouring man as a mere chattel in industry is rapidly passing away; there is a general admission to-day not only that labour is a vital necessity in all industrial endeavour, but also that it must be conserved, protected and inspired to its best life. It is agreed that society is held together by the laws of social solidarity; the interests of all classes are bound together in the general welfare of the community's life; the epidemics that were once tolerated because they existed in the slums soon spread to the mansions on the boulevard, the laws of physical and moral contagion have shewn us that they do not recognize our social distinctions; it is impossible for society or one class of society to rise while one social group is held down by unjust and unnecessary limitations. It is further agreed that labour has made a vast and indispensable contribution to our