

the "wounded soldier of industry" as he has been called, is not to be left to die by the road side, because, in his attention to his master's interests, he forgot for a moment to think of his own safety, has made astonishing progress in Europe during the last twenty years. (The new Acts in the different countries are printed with valuable introductions in the work of Dr. Zacher, *Die Arbeiterversicherung im Auslande*, Berlin, 1898. This book contains also full information as to the state of the law with regard to old age pensions, and insurance societies for workmen incapacitated by sickness.)

If the countries of Europe, divided as they are from each other by immemorial prejudice, conspire to legislate in the same sense, it is surely a fact which upon this continent deserves to be noticed. It would be safe to say that no legislation of greater importance has been passed during this generation. It affects the security and happiness of millions of working-men and working-women, and of other millions of old parents, of widows and of young children whose bread-winner has been removed from them by a fatal accident. I propose to consider briefly, the causes which have brought about so important a change in the law, and, as to England and France particularly, to examine the law prior to the new Acts. I will conclude by explaining in outline the character of the new legislation.

As to the causes, they were much the same in England and France. Disregarding minor differences, the evolution of society has been upon the same general lines in all the great manufacturing and commercial countries. All alike have become vast noisy workshops, full of whizzing wheels, of smoke, of strange chemical smells, and glaring electric lights. We live in an industrial age. The old law both in England and France