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COMPENSATION AND CHARACTER.

Now that Ontario is considering a workmen's compensation act modelled after the German law, we are hearing much in Canada as to how too much paternal legislation has affected national character. A large number of these acts are said to have developed new ailments. For instance we are told that Dutch doctors now specially differentiate between "accident neurasthenia" and "accident law neurasthenia." The latter form of illness is a morbid desire to remain an invalid and in Europe is called "pension hysteria." In France, since the passage of the French accident law of 1898, there has been born a new disease which the doctors call "sinistrosis." It is described as a "physical accident" and is caused by the fixed idea which takes possession of the injured workman that every accident occurring in the course of work constitutes a damage admitting of indemnity.

Germany has had about thirty years' experience of compulsory workmen's compensation insurance. Ontario is about to begin. At present, in Germany, there are some 14,000,000 people insured against sickness, 25,000,000 against accident and about 16,000,000 against old age and invalidism. Since the passing of the insurance laws some nine milliards of marks (\$2,250,000,000) have been expended in payments, with a regular annual average in recent years of 750,000,000 marks (\$1,850,000). The number of individuals to whom these payments are made amounts to about 100,000,000 and every year adds 8,000,000. These are remarkable figures.

It is not difficult to imagine how a mania for insurance pay could take deep root among the working classes, as similar manias have taken root among other classes. The worst possible thing for a young country such as Canada is the introduction of paternalistic laws which tend to undermine the individual spirit of enterprise and responsibility, a quality of which Canada has boasted much.

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AGAINST THE MUNICIPAL BONUS

There appears to be growing in Western Canada a disposition to regard unfavorably the municipal bonus to new industries. *The Monetary Times* always has been opposed to the practice. Ontario, which used to bonus indiscriminately, learned some bitter lessons at the hands of adventurers who played with municipal credit. At the last session of the Alberta legislature important steps were taken towards prohibiting cities of that province from giving bonuses. The following clauses were added to the charters of five of six cities that applied to the legislature for amendment to their charters.

"Notwithstanding any provision herein contained the city shall have no power:—

"(1) To grant a bonus or any other aid to any person, company or corporation for the construction, establishment or operation of any manufactory, mill or railway or any other business or concern whatsoever either within or without the municipality.

"(2) To exempt from taxation any such manufactory, mill or railway or other business or concern nor subscribe for stock in or guarantee the bonds, debentures or other securities thereof.

"Providing that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any agreement in existence at the time of the passing of this amendment between the city and any person, firm or corporation.

"Providing, also, that if the council of any city attempt to pass a by-law contrary to the above provisions in regard to bonusing, each member of the council voting in favor of such by-law shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars exclusive of costs and such members of council shall be disqualified from holding any municipal office for a period of two years.

"And provided further, that the city may sell to any person, firm or corporation, lands at any sum not less