

## EXPERT DISCUSSES THE LEADING FEATURES OF COMPENSATION ACTS

F. W. Wagenast Reviews the Legislation of Ontario and Nova Scotia, at Meeting of Women's Compensation Investigating Commission, Yesterday Afternoon—Report Not Likely to Be Ready for the Approaching Session of House, as Much Work Remains to Be Done by the Board.

Before a public meeting of the Provincial Workmen's Compensation Act Commission at the government rooms yesterday afternoon, F. W. Wagenast, an expert on compensation legislation, and the full and frank discussion of the acts of Ontario and Nova Scotia at yesterday's meeting was much appreciated by the members of the provincial commission, which will prove of value in their endeavor to work out legislation suitable to the existing needs in this province.

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while within two months after the passage of the act additional amendments had been made at the instance of the commission, with a view of making the act more workable. Under the act as originally drafted there was no limit to the amount of compensation, while the term workman had been very broadly defined. \$2,000 had been finally fixed as the limit, which amount he had contended successfully in Nova Scotia was excessive.

The Nova Scotia Act. Mr. Wagenast explained his connection with the Nova Scotia legislation, where the government had decided to drop the double-barrelled legislation and had carried out the grouping system, having board to assess the employers and pay the compensation.

Mr. Wagenast also dwelt fully with the advantages as well as the disadvantages of the grouping system, and the desirability of excluding smaller employers from the provisions of the act.

Replying to Mr. Knowlton, Mr. Wagenast said that the provisions of the act with respect to navigation should be confined to the limits of the jurisdiction of the province.

Replying to Mr. Knowlton, Mr. Wagenast said further that it would be an unreasonable and cruel thing that an employer should be compelled to compensate a workman who practically committed suicide, that is a man who loses his life through his own deliberate misconduct.

Approves Pension System. Mr. Wagenast approved of the pension system under the grouping system, but said that certain forms of the compensation acts precluded the operation of such a system. Under the individual liability he contended that the pension system was impracticable.

Mr. Wagenast believed that there should be a waiting period on the part of the workman before the compensation should begin. This had previously been carried out in England. It would serve to prevent fraud and was particularly important in view of the great multiplicity of accidents.

A discussion on the advisability of the workman relinquishing the provisions for first aid, and the manner of assessing for the compensation fund followed. Mr. Wagenast pointed out that an error had been made in adopting the rates of New York and Ohio.

Mr. Sugrue's View. Mr. Sugrue said that provision should be made to compensate every person who was a worker and that there should be no excluded cases as under the Ontario act.

Following Mr. Wagenast's address, the chairman expressed the thanks of the commission, saying that the information would prove of great value.

The commission will meet on Wednesday next when representatives of the express and railway companies will be heard.

Many Amendments. Mr. Wagenast went on to explain that the reasons for the anomalies in the Ontario act were accidental circumstances. In more than 100 ways the features of the English act were not applicable to Canada. After the first introduction of the act, Sir William Meredith, himself, had made some eighty amendments to the measure as a result of criticism made.

Special to The Standard. Campbell, May 1—Sardine work has been opened by our American neighbors across the water. The boats and vessels are engaged in the catching of herring, the prices paid to those thus engaged ranking from forty to forty-seven dollars per hoghead, while the fishermen of the North Shore report fifty dollars per hoghead to have been paid.

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