

brought that cost to an equilibrium at the very point where Mr. Beach said that it had reached the level of the capitalized valuation.

Now, you all see the significance of this. You are at the parting of the ways, and whatever you do at this time it will be hard to undo. If you introduce a system as we have mistakenly done in New York and which certainly never would have been done if the employers were near so wide-awake as you are—if you introduce a system of so-called choice of companies you saddle upon yourselves all sorts of additional costs and mischiefs, and if you introduce a system of capitalized values you will assess yourselves whether it be through the insurance companies or through the state fund for a number of years to come a great deal more money than you require to-day.

The two important amendments which in my judgment Sir William Meredith's Draft Act should receive would therefore be, first, that all of your industries be put under the insurance law, and that if some of them convince the Commission they are large enough, and it is wise on other grounds to permit them to be grouped by themselves, they be so grouped under the insurance law; and, second, let the idea of setting up capitalized value reserves be definitely abandoned, so that the Province of Ontario collect from its employers currently those rates of taxes or premiums, whichever they may be called, which are requisite to meet the current requirements, plus a surcharge for the purpose of taking care of fluctuations either in the volume of wages or in the degree of hazard—sudden fluctuations that may take place—and that there be no choice of companies; that Sir William Meredith's wise conclusions regarding that be not departed from, and that you definitely make this a public matter, to receive your attention as employers and to receive the attention of the employees and receive the attention of the entire people of Ontario—to be conducted with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of profit, and if you do follow this course I am confident that what you have done in Ontario will be regarded after a very few years as absolutely the best thing that has been done upon this subject either in your country or in mine. (Applause.)