

This proposed act will apply all over the Province of Ontario. The employees under this new Act will have to bear the burden of all costs for surgical or medical attendance, nursing and necessaries. After an injury the workman's wages cease immediately. There will be an injustice done to the members of the medical profession by imposing on them the duty of attending accident cases without any provision for remuneration. There will also be the added liability for suits of malpractice if the patient is not satisfied with the results secured in his case. Our present rights to be paid for our services as part of the damages recoverable under the Employers' Liability Act now in force and under the common law are to be taken away.

A committee was appointed two years ago this last February to present the views of the Academy of Medicine to the Commissioner as to the effect the proposed legislation would have on the medical profession. We have a copy of the letter sent asking for a hearing and an acknowledgment of its receipt from the Secretary of the Commission. No appointment was granted.

Before concluding, we wish to assure the gentlemen present and the other members of the medical profession of Ontario that there is no politics in this movement, that we are actuated solely by a desire to present our views to the proper authorities so that the interests of the registered members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario be not overlooked before this proposed act becomes law.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say that the people of this Province, including all classes, owe a debt of gratitude to Sir William Ralph Meredith for his work as Commissioner appointed to investigate and recommend a just and economical means of compensating employees who have been injured. The fund of information which he has collected and his judicial opinions will be of inestimable value.

As Sir William says, "He does not claim that the proposed act is perfect nor that the last word has been said," when he made his recommendation for its adoption to the Government.

We would recommend that the proposed bill, "Laws relating to the Liability of Employers to make compensation to their employees for injuries received in the course of their employment," have the following sections added:

Section 33, subsection 1, by adding thereto the following:

"And such sum as the Board may deem reasonable for the expenses of his medical attendance and hospital care, to be paid to the persons to whom such expenses are due."