

While the presumption in this section is in favour of the workman, it must not be presumed that the workmen are entitled to compensation if they persist in dangerous practices in spite of the instruction of the employer; if they attempt to perform other work than that to which they have been assigned, except in cases of emergency; or if they are injured through "larking" or "horse-play." On the other hand, the **workmen are entitled to recover for accidents arising from "acts of God or the forces of nature,"** if the injury occurs in the course of employment or arise out of the employment.

"SHOULD BE CONSTRUED IN POPULAR SENSE"

As has been explained in previous articles, the compensation cases in England are passed upon by a county court judge sitting as an arbitrator, and the decisions of the arbitrators have been appealed through the various courts to the Privy Council; in fact, the procedure is the same as that followed under the old act of this Province. The following are extracts from judgments handed down by the higher courts, and they are an indication, despite the many close decisions necessary in many cases, coming before them, of the line of reasoning arbitrators and judges of the lower courts are expected to follow:

LIST OF DECISIONS

"It ought to be remembered that the Workmen's Compensation Acts are expressed not in technical but in popular language, and **ought to be construed not in a technical but a popular sense.**"—Lord Justice Romer.

"This court would be slow to adopt an interpretation of the Act which would introduce exceptions that have not been made by the Legislature."—Lord Justice Matthews.

"The first thing, I think, one has to do is to apply one's mind to what is the substantive intention and meaning of this statute."—Earl of Halsbury, Lord Chancellor.

"We have been told by the House of Lords to give the terms used in the Workmen's Compensation Act their practical, popular meaning, and not to put a technical construction on them."—Collins, Master of the Rolls.

ENTIRE CHANGE OF SYSTEM

Having in mind that the courts and lawyers have been entirely eliminated insofar as the administration of the new British Col-