MEDICAL AID AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Manufacturers' Association Tells Members to Fight Shy of the Policies—What the Insurance Companies Say

The Workmen's Compensation committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association recently addressed the following letter to its members:—

"We understand that manufacturers throughout the province have been actively canvassed by certain insurance companies and urged to take out a policy to cover medical aid to workmen injured in their employ.

"We are writing this to advise you that in the opinion of the special committee on workmen's compensation, the wisdom of taking out such policies is very doubtful, and in any case such policies are highly inadvisable unless under certain important conditions. The reasons for this advice are not all proper subjects for discussion in a circular, but we would refer you to circular No. 85 sent you under date of December 22nd, 1914, and would advise you to communicate with the legal department of the association before taking steps in regard to any such insurance policy."

Workmen Might Suffer.

It is quite true that as the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario does not provide for medical expenses, some of the accident and casualty companies are issuing policies to take care of that feature. Mr. D. W. Alexander, manager for Canada, of the London Guarantee and Accident Company, Toronto, in discussing the matter with *The Monetary Times*, said:—"The workman might easily pay away the 55 per cent. of his wages given him under the act in medical expenses leaving nothing to himself on recovery."

On the other hand, Mr. Arthur Barry, manager for Canada, of the Royal Exchange Assurance, Montreal, says:—"As far as I am able to gather from the wording of the act, the insurance against medical attendance is unnecessary, and if it is carried out should be paid for by the workmen. The government has determined the liability of the manufacturers with respect to accidents. Therefore, I do no not see that they can be called upon to pay any additional benefits to those specified in the act."

Rates do not Justify Risk.

Mr. Charles F. Dale, managing director of the North American Accident Insurance Company, Montreal, thinks that the circular of the Manufacturers' Association is absolutely at variance with some of the suggestions made verbally to building and general contractors, and it appears to him that there is a desire on the part of the compensation commission to unduly hamper the insurance companies, who have undoubtedly suffered great enough loss under the act itself. "As a matter of fact," he adds, "we are not particularly interested in the first aid covering, as we are doubtful if the prevailing rates for that, will justify the taking of the risk by the companies."

Mr. J. W. Mackenzie, joint manager with Mr. T. H. Hudson, of the Canada Accident Assurance Company, Montreal, tells *The Monetary Times* that he does not see what objection the compensation committee of the Manufacturers' Association could have to insurance companies providing medical attention to injured employees in Ontario.

"The policy issued by our company," he continues, "providing for the above covering, furnishes full protection to both the employers and employees at the lowest possible rate consistent with good service. While it is quite true that the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act does not call upon the employer to furnish this medical attention, yet in a great many cases it is expedient for him to assume the cost of some, and it would appear to us that he should only be too glad to avail himself of the opportunity furnished by insurance companies to handle this matter without inconvenience to himself, and at the same time at considerably less than it would cost him to furnish medical attention."

Although the London and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident Company of Canada, Toronto, have repeatedly been asked to quote rates to cover medical aid to workmen, which is not provided for by the Workmen's Compensation Act, "we have," says Mr. Alex. McLean, the company's manager and secretary, "always declined to consider the same."

It is quite a usual thing to issue a special endorsement granting medical aid to workmen for an additional premium, according to the hazard involved. These endorsements are usually attached to workmen's compensation, employers' liability, workmen's collective or blanket accident policies, according to the circumstances.

This form of cover was more in demand in the west than in the east and the demand arose out of the necessity for large employers to provide adequate medical attendance on contracting work being conducted away from towns and cities where it was impossible to get medical aid and a necessity arose to give a retainer to a medical man to look after injured employees.

In the east many large employers insist upon their workpeople contributing to some medical aid scheme. These schemes are often run in the form of a fund, but the risk is quite insurable and any company is willing to issue a policy at a fair rate. Large firms would possibly be able to establish more or less of an average in dealing with a fund of this kind, but small firms would not and one or two serious injuries might involve a very large medical and hospital bill, particularly if the policy provides for the furnishing of all sick room requisites and the attendance of a trained nurse.

MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE

Municipal hail insurance came into effect in Saskatchewan this year on June 16th. Municipalities under the system will be entitled to insurance if hail should destroy any of the crops. Up to this date losses throughout the province from this source have been practically nil, a few slight hailstorms doing little damage and that in isolated districts where there is little grain sown. Municipalities numbering 127 throughout the province have accepted the system and it lately came into effect automatically in these municipalities. An area of 22,000,000 acres is represented by the municipalities covered with the municipal hail insurance system and over 5,500,000 of these acres are under cultivation and covered from loss by hail. The revenue for the period since the inception of the system amounts to $1,645,383, while the amount paid out in losses is $1,265,685.86.

CANADIAN PULP PRODUCTION INCREASING

Some economists have termed this the "paper age" from the increasing use of paper in all walks of life. This being the case it is gratifying to know that Canada is one of the great paper countries of the world and is destined to become still greater in this respect. All interested in paper and the materials from which it is produced, (pulp and pulpwood), look forward to the issue of the annual bulletin on "Pulpwood" by the forestry branch of the department of the interior. This has now been sent to the printer and a few of the leading facts from it may be given. In spite of the war the consumption of pulpwood in Canadian mills was over 10 per cent. greater in 1914 than in 1913.

Since 1910 the pulpwood consumed in Canadian mills has a little more than doubled. The consumption in 1910 was 598,487 cords and in 1914, 1,224,376 cords. The commonest and cheapest kind of pulp, made by the grinding process and known as ground-wood pulp, increased by 9 per cent. over 1913, but that made by chemical processes increased by over 14 per cent. This increasing use of chemical processes helps the country greatly as the product is worth nearly three times as much as the ground-wood pulp.

Quebec is still the leading province in pulp production, having 31 active mills out of a total of 66 mills for all Canada. Quebec produced 55 per cent. of all Canadian pulp in 1914. Ontario came second with nearly 37 per cent. of the total production and the other producing provinces in order were British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The total value of pulpwood consumed in Canadian mills in 1914 was $8,089,868 and of that exported to foreign countries in a raw state $6,680,490, making a grand total of $14,770,358 for the value of the pulpwood produced last year. It is interesting to know that the proportion of pulpwood manufactured into pulp in Canada is increasing over that exported in the raw state. The bulletin containing all the facts of this industry will be issued in a few weeks and those desiring a copy or requiring immediate information on some particular point may have the same furnished free by writing the director of forestry, department of the interior, Ottawa.