

all men who shew any sign of physical or mental weakness, it is not very difficult to see that the army of the unemployed is likely to swell. The conclusion seems inevitable, therefore, that this course of legislation is not after all so beneficial for the working classes as it was, no doubt, intended to be.

The promoters of this legislation it appears artfully suggested that its effect would be to relieve the poor rates, inasmuch as it was said the burden of supporting workmen injured or killed by accident and their families would now have to be borne by the employers, and not by the public at large, which was merely an ingenious piece of sophistry and an appeal to public selfishness which was only too easily swallowed; as though the public could prevent employers adding the additional cost of the insurance of their workmen to the price of the goods which they sell, and which the public have in the long run to pay. This class of employers are quite able, and we are quite sure do, as a matter of fact, take into account in fixing the price of their goods this additional burden which is thrown on them; but it is different with the small householder whose servant, through his fault or negligence on his part, falls and breaks her leg. He has to shoulder the burden of compensating her for her injury, without being able to call on anyone else to share it with him. Such legislation we should think is well calculated to have the effect of throwing a large class of domestic servants out of employment altogether.

The key-note of the Ontario Act, as we have intimated, is that in order to give rise to liability on the part of the employer the injury to the workman must arise from some negligence for which the master is responsible, whether it be in his plant, or works, or ways, or in the order of persons in authority to which the injured workmen was bound to conform. This seems as we have said a reasonable basis for such legislation, whereas that in England, which goes beyond, appears to be ill-conceived and detrimental to the class intended to be benefited, as well as unjust in principle. It is no wonder that Sir John Gray Hill's deliberate opinion is that the whole policy of the existing Work-