

STATE INSURANCE AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

(By Mr. W. E. Gray, B.A., LL.B., General Manager and Secretary, Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation).

(Continued from last week)

A WORKMAN'S ARGUMENT.

Let us examine another argument against the companies—one advanced from the workman's side, viz., "that it is the employer who is insured and not the workman."

This argument has been advanced where they had only had experience of employers' liability law, but it was advanced during the consideration of a Workmen's Compensation Bill, and was put forward in favour of a State insurance of the benefits.

Now, while it is literally true that the employer is insured, inasmuch as by paying the required premium he frees himself from whatever the liability is, it is not true to say that the workman is not insured also. To see this, you have to regard the various ways in which the compensation is imposed in various countries.

Let me take as an example Belgium or France, where the conditions are somewhat similar.

In these countries there is a State Insurance Institution, but companies are permitted to write the insurance in competition with the State. In the case of all such companies the State sees that they are thoroughly fit to meet all the responsibilities that may devolve on them. Firstly, they have to obtain a license and make a very substan-

tial deposit. Then their liabilities are calculated on a close mathematical basis and a reserve to meet them is required—not a mere book figure but hard cash. The claims of the workman are fully considered and reviewed by competent courts at regular intervals, and, speaking with a considerable experience of the actual working, I have never heard of a complaint of injustice.

Again, in those States of the United States where compensation has been adopted and companies are permitted to write this business—whether there is a State insurance department or not—the conduct of their business by the companies and the stringency of the reserves they must maintain are so closely supervised by the Insurance Commissioners that it is not possible for any workman to feel that he is not insured for every penny that he is entitled to.

BRITISH INDIVIDUALISM.

Our own country is rather unique in its individualism. It simply makes the employer responsible for certain benefits and leaves him either to carry this responsibility himself or to pass it on to an insurance company. As to the insurance company, our Government takes no pains to see that it carries on its work properly or even honestly; it does not trouble as to its ability to meet its claims or to see that it treats its assured or his workmen equitably or fairly. The only recognition of the insurance companies they have made is the provision in the Workmen's Compensation Act that if the employer is insured and becomes bankrupt an injured workman can maintain his claim against the insurance company direct. Here there may be some ground

The Travellers Life Assurance Co. of Canada

HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL, Que.

ANNUAL STATEMENT—December 31st, 1915

Assets	\$284,133.27	Increase.....	\$46,533.45
Liabilities.....	177,003.00	"	44,513.91
Surplus to Policyholders.....	\$107,130.27	"	\$ 2,019.54
Subscribed and Uncalled Capital.....	479,760.00		
Total Surplus Security to Policyholders.....	\$586,890.27		

Being three and one-third times the amount of Liabilities.

INCOME FOR 1915

Net Premiums.....	\$102,369.78	Increase.....	\$27,112.91
Interest.....	11,665.98	"	1,152.90
Other Income.....	5,750.00	"	2,910.00
Total Income.....	\$119,785.76	"	\$31,175.81
Total Disbursements.....	71,300.70	"	13,388.23

POLICIES ISSUED AND REVIVED DURING 1915

810 Policies, representing	\$1,529,266.00	Increase.....	\$135,216.00
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INSURANCE IN FORCE, DECEMBER 31st, 1915

2,018 Policies, representing	\$4,512,602.00
Reinsurance in other Companies	1,215,398.00
Net Amount in Force.....	\$3,297,204.00
An Increase of.....	350,652.00

INTEREST earned on Investments, including cash in Banks..... 6.26 per cent.

MORTALITY only 21½ per cent. of Expected Losses.

OFFICERS:

President : Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM, M.P. Vice-Presidents : JAS. W. PYKE, LORNE C. WEBSTER. Sec. & Actuary : ARTHUR P. EARLE, A.I.A., A.A.S.