

WASHINGTON'S COMPENSATION COMMISSION SCALES CLAIMS.

The Washington Compensation Commission which operates a workmen's compensation law that is constantly being held up for admiration by advocates of Government workmen's compensation insurance, apparently is not above following a course of action which no reputable insurance company transacting a workmen's compensation business would tolerate. John H. Wallace, formerly a member of the Washington Industrial Insurance Commission, has recently testified before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations that the Washington Industrial Insurance Commission has been scaling down compensation claims and opposing a "first aid" amendment of the law and has taken up the method of bargaining with injured men in order to get the workmen to take just as little as possible. It appears, according to Mr. Wallace's testimony, that one injured man in Everett had to sue the Commission, who had offered him less than was due him, and as the result of his suit he obtained all that he was entitled to. Mr. Wallace referred to a number of instances where in his opinion injured men were not justly treated.

It would be interesting to know the reason why for this line of conduct. Is it because it is now realized that the scheme will be far more costly than was anticipated by those who claimed great things for Government insurance?

INSURANCE PATRIOTISM: A SPLENDID SHOWING.

It is announced in London that from the staffs of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited, and its associated offices (the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, and the Union Assurance Society, Limited), no fewer than 687 members have been granted leave of absence for military and naval service. The Directors have authorized payment of their salaries in full and reinstatement on their return. Despite the loss of so large a number, the work, necessarily reduced in consequence of the war, has been undertaken by the remaining members of the staff. We understand that this splendid response to the country's call refers only to the home staffs of the Commercial Union and its associated offices, and does not include those volunteering from the staffs in Canada or elsewhere within the Empire.

The directors of the Alliance Assurance Company have generously granted leave of absence to no less than 20 per cent. of their staff for service with the forces of the Crown, and will pay their salaries in full during the war and will keep their places open for them.

It seems to be expected in British insurance circles that one result of present events will be the formation of several new re-insurance companies. One has already appeared at Glasgow, the Home & Foreign Re-Insurance Company, Ltd., the capital being privately subscribed. Those associated with this new Company as directors and officers are also associated with the West of Scotland Insurance Office, Ltd., in similar capacities.

ANOTHER HONORABLE EXAMPLE.

A commendable stand has been taken by A. & J. H. Stoddart, managers of the New York Underwriters' Agency apropos competition with foreign fire insurance companies. Agents have been notified that the Underwriters' Agency has no desire whatever to take business from foreign companies "whose presence in this country is essential for the protection of risks in our large cities." Agents are admonished to obtain business as a natural sequence of the service rendered the assured and not through an attempt to pull other companies down. The letter sent to the agents of the Underwriters' Agency says in part:

"You doubtless have heard or read the conjectures respecting the effect of the war upon foreign companies whose home countries are engaged in that conflict. We do not consider that any apprehension is justified on the part of agents or the public, and it is hardly necessary for us to say that we are unwilling to trade on any such feeling. Our principal competition is to secure business by being of service to our agents and policyholders, and we do not try to build up ourselves by pulling down others. Please make it plain to all with whom you have dealings that we are unwilling to take business from foreign companies, whose presence in this country is essential for the protection of risks in our large cities."

MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA.

Mr. George Wegenast, managing director of the Mutual Life of Canada, has just completed a tour of the prairie provinces, during which he motored several thousand miles through the wheat fields and visited all the larger cities, inspecting the mortgage loans made by the Mutual Life in the three provinces.

Interviewed at Winnipeg on his return, Mr. Wegenast spoke hopefully of the situation. "Farmers will go on growing grain," said Mr. Wegenast, "whether there is war or no war. There will, in fact, be a considerable increase in grain growing and mixed farming and land values must rise. For these reasons we consider it safe to lend money to producers and our confidence in the country remains unimpaired. There are certain financial developments which no one can control but intrinsically this agricultural country is absolutely sound."

"From the country as a whole we expect a good report this fall. Last year we were able to say that practically every dollar that was due to the company of principal and interest had been paid. We do not expect to be able to make as favorable a report this year, but we believe that borrowers in all parts of the country in which we are interested will be able to meet their payments practically in full. Our business in the west has always been of a very satisfactory character, and we believe that this will always continue to be the case."

Do not attempt to interfere with the housekeeping! Your wife can do it for you much better than you can, even in times of pressure. On the other hand, do not attempt to explain the objects of the moratorium or the changes in the bank rate to your female relatives. That way madness lies.—London *Financier*.