

NOVA SCOTIA WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Assessments Have Been Adequate for Ordinary Accidents But Not Sufficient for Halifax Disaster

In *The Monetary Times* last week an account was given of the operations of the Nova Scotia Workmen's Compensation Board, for the year ended 31st December, 1917. The following is a statement of income and expenditure for the year:—

Income.	
Total assessments	\$812,367
Interest penalties, etc., other than interest on reserves	9,698
Total	\$822,066
Expenditure.	
Compensation paid, other than pensions	\$173,174
Transferred to reserve for compensation awards	330,083
Administration expenses	22,871
Special surgical operations	201
Compensation estimated for reported claims	98,328
Compensation estimated for unreported accidents ..	48,158
Disaster reserve	81,230
Total	\$754,055
Balance (provisional reserve)	68,010
	\$822,065

This table does not include items relative to the Halifax disaster of December 6th, 1917, as no payments for compensation were made in 1917 and the compensation loss is to be taken care of by the relief commission. The assessments were based on payrolls furnished by employers when the actual payroll statements properly verified are received, and after they are audited on behalf of the board, a final adjustment will be made. The board expresses the opinion that the amount of the actual payrolls will be considerably larger than the estimates, and consequently that the amount or the total assessments for the year will be materially increased.

The industries of the province are arranged in ten groups, the reports of each are shown separately in the report of the board, but are lumped together in the totals given above. In three of the classes, namely, lumbering and wood-working, iron and steel (for manufacture and work), and building and construction was the total expenditure greater than the income. The other seven classes, however, provided a balance of \$109,294 and when the negative balance from these three classes, amounting to \$41,283, was deducted, the provisional balance of \$268,010 was obtained.

According to the balance issued as at December 31st, 1917, assets totaled \$616,817, most of which is in war bonds or cash. The amount of assessments still to be received is quite small, namely, \$11,075. Among the liabilities there is provision for compensation estimated for reported claims, compensation estimated for unreported claims, disaster reserve and pension reserve.

The administration expenses for the year were \$27,905. The board receives a grant from the province, however, of \$5,033, bringing its share of the expense down to \$22,871. The total number of accidents compensated was 4,812, including 142 deaths; all but 798 have been entirely disposed of.

TO PREPARE FOR CANADIAN IMMIGRATION

A company was organized about three months ago in Saskatchewan by the name of the North West Investment Company, Limited, at Regina, Sask. The president is Mr. W. E. Moore, general manager of the Lumber Manufacturers' Yards, Limited, and the general manager is Mr. Norman Rankine. The purpose of the company is to create an organization for the handling of farm lands and the writing of insurance throughout the province. They expect that if Canada participates in the immigration which is expected after the war, a considerable portion of it will come to Saskatchewan and the company will be in a position to deal in farm lands. Agents have been secured at some 300 points throughout the province.

FIRE PREVENTION CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

A fire prevention conference will be held in Toronto on Friday August 30th. The meeting has been called by the premier, and notices sent to all in the provinces who are interested. It will be called to order at 10 o'clock a.m., in the reception room of the Parliament Buildings.

After the election of a chairman of the meeting, the formal work of the convention will be taken up. There will be a discussion in the forenoon on "Ways and Means for the Proper Observance of October 9th as Fire Prevention Day," led by Hon. T. A. Fleming, fire marshal of Ohio.

After luncheon the convention will reconvene at 2.30 p.m. to receive reports of committees and effect permanent organization.

"What Can Women and Children Do to Prevent Fires?" will be among the topics for discussion in the afternoon; and the education of the youth of our country along fire prevention lines will also be given consideration.

SOUTH VANCOUVER FINANCES

The municipality of South Vancouver is having domestic difficulties over the collection of its taxes. Some time ago, by the request of the municipality, the provincial government appointed Mr. F. J. Gillespie as tax commissioner for South Vancouver. He recently announced a tax upon improvements which is much higher than usual, and is levied upon one-third of the assessments. This tax is meeting with strenuous objection on the part of a large body of citizens, who claim that the arrears of taxes should be collected or tax sales resorted to. They point out that a tax on improvements will merely increase the burden upon the regular taxpayers, while delinquents will continue to escape unless severe measures are resorted to.

In explanation of the tax on improvements, Mr. Gillespie pointed out that a tax sale for 1914-15-16 would confer no immediate benefit on the municipality, because the arrears were all pledged to Spitzer, Rorick and Company, of Toledo. The ratepayers would, however, be relieved of the interest which is being paid on the loan in the meantime. The commissioner also announced that the loan from the bank now carried interest at 5½ per cent. as compared with 6½ per cent. formerly. A further point brought out was that, as the municipal act now stands, the corporation cannot guarantee a title to the purchaser of tax sale lands, and not until that act is amended at the next session of the legislature can the municipality expect any person to purchase its lands. He said that just as soon as the act was amended he would hold a tax sale.

On the 15th instant a meeting of about 1,000 of the citizens assembled in South Vancouver to protest against the improvement tax. After much discussion, during which a variety of opinion was expressed, the following resolution was passed:—

"We, ratepayers of South Vancouver in public meeting assembled, pledge ourselves not to pay our taxes for this year until a tax sale has been held, and every legitimate effort made to collect the arrears;

"That the tax sale embody all arrears up to and including the year 1916, and that sufficient time be allowed for the rebate.

"We also demand that after the tax sale the moneys realized through the same be deducted from the estimated income and all taxes reduced proportionately.

"We further maintain that it is the duty of the commissioner to do everything possible to collect the arrears of taxes before increasing the taxes of the residents.

"That we protest against the action of Commissioner Gillespie in levying an improvement tax, and hereby demand his recall by the government."

A Lignite Utilization Board has been appointed by Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of mines for the Dominion of Canada. This board will deal with the problems concerned with the future development and use of deposits of lignite coal in the west. Mr. R. A. Ross, consulting engineer, of Montreal, will be chairman, and the two members will be Mr. I. M. Leamy, of Winnipeg, provincial electrician, and Mr. J. A. Sheppard, of Moose Jaw, Sask.