

more economically, because you would have but one machinery in the Province for doing it, instead of a duplication of that machinery in different parts of the Province. And you would have it done more efficiently, because the agents of the Province are present everywhere, for the convenience of the entire neighborhood, and are ready to take up promptly the adjustment of all claims of this character, and because those persons who are to receive compensation on account of accidents upon the railroads, for instance, may go away from the communities where they once lived and from the neighborhoods in which the railway is represented, but they do not move away, so long as they remain in the Province of Ontario, from the neighborhoods where the Province is represented through this Commission. So that you see the whole machinery for both adjusting and paying these claims can be much more economically and efficiently administered through one agency, your Commission, than it can by the duplication of those agencies on the part of private corporations.

Now, not only that is true, but it is also true that you will be far more sure of a uniform and fair operation of your law than you can possibly be if a part of it is left, in its administration, virtually with the employers themselves (applause). And it is exceedingly important, from the working-man's standpoint, that no part of the working men of this Province shall be left, when a state fund had been created, to fuss it out with their employers, first as to how much shall be allowed, and secondly, as to whether it is to continue to be paid (applause). Therefore I strongly recommend to you the adopting of the main principles of the draft Act reported by Sir William Meredith, to which he has given years of careful consideration, and in the preparation of which he has exhibited unusual candor and unusual sobriety and unpartisanship in every regard, and in adopting that principle—that sound, correct principle of the establishment of a state or provincial fund—you do not permit this departure, but insist or require that all the employers embraced by this Act shall become part and parcel of the system, with only this condition, that it shall be within the power of the Commission, when convinced that it is wise in all regards, to permit an individual employer or a group of employers otherwise associated, to be formed into a special group for the purpose of this insurance, in which case there would be no difficulty about taking care of the problem of railroad corporations, telephone corporations, telegraph corporations and the like.

That is the policy which has been followed in the law in New York, and although in many other respects and in the most important regard that law is not uniform, in this one respect the New York law is decidedly superior to that which has been reported by Sir William Meredith. Our direct reason for so providing in New York was that it was considered that