

What the Workmen's Compensation Act Offers

Proposed Discussion to be Carried Out in These Columns
—Table of Remedy and Amounts Recoverable Under the Various Acts.

The Hon. the Attorney-General has introduced an Act to provide compensation to workmen for injuries sustained and industrial diseases contracted in the course of their employment.

This has not yet become law, but the Act will no doubt be passed if it receives the support of the electors.

The proposed measure is practically State insurance; and although similar legislation has been tried with varying

success elsewhere, it is open to question if this Province is yet ready for such a scheme.

It is our intention to throw our columns open for a thorough discussion of the matter, both as to the terms of the proposed Act and as to the general question of State ownership or control.

With this end in view, we now beg to submit a table showing existing remedies and amounts recoverable under these as compared with schedule of compensation recoverable under the proposed Act.

EXTENT OF DISABILITY.	EXISTING REMEDIES AND AMOUNTS RECOVERABLE.			AMOUNTS RECOVERABLE UNDER PROPOSED NEW ACT.
	COMMON LAW AND FAMILIES COMPENSATION ACT.	EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.	WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.	
Any injury not disabling for a period of at least 14 days.	Invoked where defective machinery was cause of accident.	Invoked where accident due to orders given by a foreman.	Invoked where injury was received in course of employment and not due to defective machinery or foreman's instructions.	Superseding the existing remedies, except that employees of steam railway companies shall still have right of action at common law.
If injury attributable solely to the serious and wilful misconduct of the workman.	Full wages, expenses, and allowance for pain and suffering.	Full wages, expenses, and allowance for pain and suffering.	No claim.	No claim.
Fatal accidents.	No claim.	No claim.	No claim.	If death or serious disablement results, compensation as undernoted.
	Governed by former earning capacity and other circumstances. No limit.	Limit \$2,000 or three years' wages, whichever is greater.	By sole dependents. Limit \$1,000 or 3 years' wages, whichever is greater, but not exceeding \$1,500. (By partial dependents. A sum not exceeding above. Amount to be determined by arbitration and being reasonable and proportionate to injury to said dependents.) (Where there are no dependents the employer is liable for reasonable expenses of medical attendance and burial, not exceeding \$100.)	By sole dependents burial expenses, not exceeding \$75. \$20 per month to widow or invalid widower. Where there are also children, \$20 a month and \$5 a month for each child under 16, not exceeding \$40 in all. Where dependents are children, \$10 a month to each child under 16, not exceeding \$40 in all, and in no case exceeding 55% of average earnings. (By partial dependents. Compensation as above, amount to be determined by the Board, being reasonable and proportionate to the pecuniary loss sustained, but not exceeding 55% of the average monthly earnings of the deceased workman.) If widow marries, the monthly payments shall cease, but she shall be entitled to a lump sum equal to two years' compensation, payable within one month after date of her marriage. (Where there are no dependents the Board will pay reasonable expenses of medical attendance and other care during disability, and expenses of burial.)
Permanent total disability.	Same as above.	Same as above.	Weekly payments equal to 50% of wages, not exceeding \$10, dating from second week after date of injury, limited to \$1,500. Provision for commutation for a lump sum after six months.	Weekly payments equal to 55% of average weekly earnings, payable for life.
Permanent partial disability.	Same as above, except that present earning power would be taken into consideration.	See column 2.	Difference between former and present earning power, subject to same limitations as above.	55% of difference between former and present earning power, payable for life. A lump sum may be awarded in lieu of monthly payments, where the difference in earning power does not exceed 10%.
Temporary total or partial disability.	Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above, payable so long as disability lasts.
Disability due to certain industrial diseases, including anthrax, lead, mercury, phosphorous and arsenic poisoning and ankylostomiasis.	No claim.	No claim.	No claim.	Same rate of compensation as in case of accident.

The above schedule of compensation, in so far as it applies to the new Act, covers practically all workmen except farm labourers or domestic or menial servants (and employers shall be assessed as explained hereafter).

Steam railway companies, for all their operations, shall be individually liable for accidents to their employees in terms of the new Act, and also at common law, except that certain grounds of defence shall be taken away, such as continuance in employment after knowledge of defect or negligence, negligence of fellow workmen, and contributory negligence.

Provision is made for the regulation of such companies in connection with compensation to be paid to its employees.

A Commission shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, which shall consist of one man, who

shall give his whole time to the administration of the Act, at a salary of \$7,000 a year.

The Province shall contribute a sum not exceeding \$50,000 a year to assist in defraying expenses of administration.

Except steam railroad companies, etc., and other exceptions before referred to, all employers of labour shall be called upon to contribute towards the cost of this Act; various trades being grouped for purposes of classification and a rate fixed for each group and assessment made at that rate according to amount of payroll.

Every employer shall, not later than three months before the Act goes into force, and yearly thereafter, prepare and submit to the Board a statement of wages expended for the past year and an estimate of amount to be expended