WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

New Act Becomes Effective in Washington in October —Notes of Its Salient Features.

Adequate protection for employer and employee, increased safety of industrial operations, sure and certain relief for workers injured at extra hazardous occupations, and their families and dependents, elimination of litigation and consequent saving of retainer's fees and court expenses and regulation by State police powers of dangerous trades, are some of the advantages claimed for the Workmen's Compensation Act, which will become effective in Washington on October 1st, 1911.

The theory of the Act, which was adopted by the last legislature, is stated in these words:

"The welfare of the State depends on its industries and even more upon the welfare of its wage-earners."

The new law applies to all factories, mills and workshops where machinery is used and foundries, mines, smelters, powder works, breweries, elevators, docks, dredges, laundries, printing, engineering, logging, lumbering, shipbuilding, railroad and general building operations, street and interurban railroads, electrical, power and heating plants and steamboats.

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been appropriated by the State to bear the expense of administering the law, and Governor Marion B. Hay has appointed a commission to have full charge of the industrial insurance work, including the collection of premiums and the adjustment and settlement of claims. The commission, which is composed of George A. Lee, of Spokane, representing the legal profession, chairman; G. A. Pratt, of Tacoma, for the manufacturers and employers, and J. H. Wallace, of Seattle, for the workingmen, has power to create new classes and establish new rates.

Percentage to Pay Roll.

The law provides that each of the industries shall contribute a certain percentage of its pay-roll to an accident fund, from which various sums are paid out for total or part disability or on death to the family and dependents of the injured workman, the expense of handling the fund being borne by the State. Injured workmen, their families or dependents, cannot recover by law except where the injury is caused by the intent of the employer, in which case the workman or his family may recover not only the sums due under this act, but may sue for any excess of damage over these amounts.

Where a workman is injured because the employer has neglected to observe the safeguards by law or by the regulations of the department, the employer must pay 50 per cent. more than the fixed amounts. Where the workman intentionally injures himself he receives no benefit.

The industries of the State are classified and certain premiums fixed for each class. The employers are required to pay three months' premiums into the State treasury on or before October 1, 1911. After December 31, monthly payments are required, provided, however, that if any industry has a sufficient amount on deposit with the State to take care of its accidents no further payments shall be required.

Each industry is responsible only for the accidents occurring in that class. It is intended that the accident fund shall be neither more or less than self-supporting. The rates are subject to re-adjustment, depending on the number of accidents and the need for compensation of injured workmen.

Employers are required to report accidents promptly, and their books, records and pay-rolls must be open for inspection by the commission. Refusal to permit inspection is made a misdemeanor and the employer also is penalized $100 for each offense, to be collected by action in court and paid into the accident fund.

Misrepresentation Makes Employer Liable.

Misrepresentation in his pay-roll makes the employer liable to ten times the difference between the correct and the wrong figures. If the employer refuses or fails to pay his monthly assessments, a workman injured in his service may sue in the courts with the employer's defence of "fellow-servant," "assumption of risk," and "contributory negligence" abolished.

No part of the premium can be deducted from the wages of the workman, the violation by the employer of this section of the law being made a gross misdemeanor, punishable by one year in the county jail or by a fine of $1,000, or both.

The schedule of payments for various injuries is as follows:

In the event of death, expenses of burial, $75; payment to widow or invalid widower, $20 a month while unmarried, $240 in a lump sum on re-marriage of the widow; for each surviving child under 16, $5 a month, monthly amount limited to $35; if no widow or widower survives, $10 a month to each child under 16 years. The same rule applies to children who become orphans by death of surviving parent, with monthly limit of $35. Dependents will be paid 50 per cent. of the average monthly support formerly received from the deceased workman, limited to $20 a month. Parents of deceased unmarried workmen receive $20 a month up to time deceased would have been 21 years of age.

When totally disabled, loss of both arms or one leg and arm, sight, paralysis or other injury preventing the workman from doing any work, entitles him to $20 a month if unmarried; if supporting wife or invalid husband, $25 a month; if the husband is not an invalid, $15. For each child under 16 years, $5 a month additional up to a total of $35. In case of death of the totally disabled workman, the widow or widower receives $20 a month until death or re-marriage and $5 a month additional for each child until 16. Orphan children receive $10 a month.

When partly disabled by the loss of one foot, leg, hand or arm, eye or fingers, the workman will receive a certain cash lump sum up to $1,500. The loss of one arm at the elbow is made the maximum injury and the payment for other injuries is scaled down by the commission. If the injured workman resides or moves out of the State the commission may lump the monthly payments, not to exceed $4,000, based on the American mortality table. Any decision of the commission is subject to appeal in the superior courts.

"It is thought the new system will create a better feeling between the employer and employee," said Howard L. Hindley, secretary of the commission, "and in the end establish the principle of State industrial insurance on a sound and practical economic basis."

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The following is a list of annual meetings to be held in the near future:—

Company.	Meeting Place.	Sept.
Algoma Central & Hudson Bay Railway	Sault Ste. Marie.	20th
Quinze & Blanche River Railway Company	Ottawa.	5th
Klondike Mines Railway Company.	Ottawa.	4th
Central Railway Company of Canada	Montreal.	4th
Rutland and Noyan Railway Company	Noyan Junction.	6th
Trans-Niagara Bridge Company...	Toronto.	12th
St. Lawrence & Adirondack Railway	Montreal.	6th
Ontario, Hudson's Bay and Western Railways Company	Sault Ste. Marie.	20th
Algoma Eastern Railway Company.	" "	20th
Ottawa & New York Company....	Ottawa.	19th
Quebec Railway Light & Power Company	Quebec.	12th
Montreal & Province Line Railway Company	Montreal.	13th
Central Counties Railway Company.	"	6th
Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon Railway Company	Vancouver.	20th
Ottawa, Rideau Valley & Brockville Railway Company	Ottawa.	20th
The Grand Trunk Pacific Branch Lines Company	Montreal.	20th
Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company	"	19th
Pacific Northern & Omineca Railway Company	Victoria.	20th
Joliette & Lake Manuan Colonization Railway Company	Montreal.	6th
Hereford Railway Company	Sherbrooke.	5th
Huron & Ontario Railway	Toronto.	4th
Elgin and Havelock Railway Company	Halifax.	6th
Quebec, Montreal & Southern Railway Company	Montreal.	6th
Red Mountain Railway Company..	Rossland.	13th
Erie, London & Tillsonburg Railway	Tillsonburg.	11th
Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway Company	Rossland.	13th
Chatham, Wallaceburg & Lake Erie Railway Company	Chatham.	6th

The Banque Internationale du Canada will hold a meeting at Montreal on Monday, to determine the day upon which the annual general meeting of the Bank is to be held; to elect such number of directors duly qualified under the Act not less than five as the subscribers may think necessary, and to transact such further business as may validly be placed before the meeting.