

was used for expenses and that out of the remaining fifty cents, not quite all by any means reached the workmen and their families. It is the part after all that reaches the workmen and their families that is going to perform this public duty of taking care of the workmen and their families. Now, 100 per cent. is added to it for expenses of administration, and even then you have not met the public part of it, because the public under their systems have to maintain their courts of commissions or whatever other means they have of determining all questions in dispute—that has to be added.

When I first began to talk about this after leaving that vessel, it was with the idea that it was almost a hopeless task. I felt about all that could be done in my country and in this was to say that undoubtedly the German plan was the best, and yet strangely enough it has not wholly been true. We have had several states in the United States adopt state funds. Washington was the first. When we used to talk about the different state systems we would point to the ten per cent. expense rate in Norway, to the eleven per cent. expense rate in Austria, to the thirteen or fourteen or fifteen per cent. (which, however, includes a vast amount of money used for the prevention of accidents) in Germany, and so on; and we have always been met with the argument in my country—I don't suppose any of you here ever dream of saying that thing about your country—in my country we have always been met with the argument that the United States was stuffed so full of bad politics it was utterly impossible for us to duplicate anything like that, that we would find it the most wasteful administration, that it was the most costly and expensive way for us to conduct this. They started it in Washington—and it is wild and woolly like British Columbia—it is not a settled section like Ontario at all, and it has some disadvantages; they are scattered over a large territory and not compact and not easy to get at—but they have been in operation for two years under a pure state insurance plan where they do not have any other way to do it, and the state makes appropriations for paying the expenses out of the general taxes; they have handled into the millions of dollars, adjusted their claims, got that money directly to the workmen and their families and it has taken about eight per cent. instead of one hundred per cent. of the amount of money that went into the net fund to pay all of those things. (Applause). So you have an illustration right before you now.

There is one other phase of this matter that I postponed to talk with you about, it is somewhat difficult and yet I do want your most earnest attention. It is of extreme importance and it does call for the exercise of the grey matter within your brain to catch it, and I don't want it to get away under any circumstances, and that is this: This is a public matter and you should deal with it in all particulars as a public matter in my opinion, and one of those particulars is that you should