

a political point of view would probably not be popular; people do not like direct taxation, and, as a general rule, they will prefer to pay twice as much indirectly, as they would half as much directly. Although by direct taxation premiums of insurance and heavy legal expenses might be saved, it must be remembered that, on the other hand, a public fund could not be collected and administered without a certain large expenditure to salaried officials, which must, of course, be added to the cost of compensation.

We notice that one employer claims that in his particular business it is not possible for him to transfer to the consumer the cost to which he is put in making compensation to injured workmen, but we rather think that his case must be quite unique, and that in the great majority of cases the opinion is well founded that the expense of compensation is treated as part of the expense of a business, which is duly provided for by an added charge for goods or work, which in the long run the public pays.

There is not only the general principle of making compensation for injuries occasioned by accident at stake, but also the question to what classes of the community should that principle be extended. Hitherto the farming community has not been included among workmen entitled to compensation for injuries, although it appears by statistics, that at least fifty per cent. of the total accidents occurring in industrial pursuits, arise in farming operations. Domestic servants also are a class not at present in Ontario within the scope of the present Act.

The workmen appear to favour the view that "all workers" getting less than \$2,000 a year should be included in the new Act to be passed, but when we examine the details of their proposals, it appears to be clear that they have in mind merely the workers in manufactories or other industrial occupations, because we find that they propose that the compensation fund should be raised by "compulsory insurance of employers in the State Department by a yearly tax levied on the industry or occupation, covering the risk of the particular industry or occupation," which tax they proposed shall be regulated by the "yearly wage roll."