

As to employers, it is only just to give them some compensation for the sacrifices they will make, and we are of opinion that every master assuring his workmen ought to be freed from all liability in case of death by accident happening from uncontrollable causes; his liability remaining, meanwhile, complete when the accident is attributable to negligence or to the bad condition of his buildings or machinery.

In this case even the premium of \$500 which would be paid by insurance would be deducted from the amount of damages incurred by the culpable master.

This assurance would not only have for effect to put the family of the victims beyond the reach of want, but also to solve this industrial question, namely: if salaries include or not an insurance premium on professional risks.

The insurance project which we have just set forth covers only the payment, in case of death or of permanent disability, of a certain sum, and does not in any way provide for the payment of a weekly sum in case of temporary

INABILITY TO WORK CAUSED BY ACCIDENT.

The roll of the State in the project which we have just explained is limited to the laying up and payment of fixed sums, established according to absolutely mathematical conclusions. In our opinion the State cannot interfere in the question of paying a weekly indemnity to persons disabled by result of accident.

There is there quite a series of possible frauds which could be prevented only by a costly supervision, entirely outside the ordinary functions of a Government. But the State can still intervene there as a collector. It could every year, for example, ask for tenders from insurance companies for the payment to its policy-holders of an indemnity of so much a week in case of illness resulting from accident. The State would collect always, with the aid of stamps, the premiums, and remit them to the company which would have taken the contract, and the assured, for this part of their assurance, would be submitted to all the conditions and all the varieties of control which companies impose and exercise to-day.*

As to the expenses which the State will have to bear to put this assurance in working order, they would be insignificant compared with the results to be obtained.

They enter, besides, into expenses made under the name of public interest, and their benefits will be open to every citizen. They will be, certainly, smaller and as legitimate as those occasioned by the gratuitous transport by post of 55,000,000 of newspapers.

ANNUITIES FOR OLD AGE.

Is it possible to obtain in the same proportions the concurrence of the State for assurance on ordinary life? We think not. Life assurance is based on the state of health of the person assured; and the State, no more than in the case of insurance against sickness, can exercise, even at great expense, an effectual control against fraud.

It is with regret that we have arrived at this conclusion, for life insurance companies have established their premiums upon such bases that workmen are almost excluded from the benefits which these institutions distribute.

We find the proof of excessive tariff of premiums in the official reports published in the Blue Books. Thus, in 1887, Canadian companies, which take only 60 per cent. of the policies held in Canada, acknowledged a surplus of \$1,621,298 above all liabilities, the sinking fund included. That is to say, since the beginning of their operations the Canadian companies, with a paid-up capital of \$682,002, have realized

* In cases of workingmen who belong to benefit societies, the Government may deal with those societies, instead of dealing with insurance companies.