

## FIGHT GROWS HOT.

### Government's Bill Amending Workmen's Compensation Act Arouses Hostility of Employers.

#### Opposing Parties Further Heard Before Legislative Committee.

The government's proposed amendments to the Workmen's Compensation act was threshed out nearly all day Thursday before the corporations committee of the legislature, the employers putting up stiff opposition to the measure, and the Labor unions strongly contending for the amendments. The report of the morning's proceedings has already been published in the Herald.

After recess Mr. J. B. Cudlip said he would like to call attention to the clause referring to the liability of the employer by reason of the act or omission of any person in the service of the employer in obedience to rules or by-laws which had to be submitted to the approval of the Lieut. Governor in Council. Speaking for the cotton mill industry, it was extremely difficult to make any hard and fast rules, and as a consequence an accident might happen before a new rule could have been approved.

Hon. Mr. Hazen asked if it would suit Mr. Cudlip's views if the rules were posted in the works without the approval of the Lieut. Governor being first obtained.

Mr. Cudlip said that would be most satisfactory. It would not even be satisfactory to submit to the approval of the factory inspector as his visits came so seldom.

With reference to the provisions as to compensation for injuries received at the hands of a fellow workman a workman looks for compensation to somebody. If the injury was caused through the neglect of the employer it was all right, but if the employer had done all in his power to make an accident unlikely, and still one took place from no fault of his, it was an absolute injustice that he should be called upon to pay compensation. Mr. Hatheway was desirous of changing the law in the interests as he said, of the manufacturers. No doubt that body would be much obliged to him, but if all of them were of the same mind as he, (the speaker) himself was, they would be quite satisfied to have things left as they are at present.

Mr. Martin, speaking for the millmen, thought it was only right that a workman should be compensated for injuries caused to him by a fellow workman. It was said they were going to raise the limit of compensation to \$2500, but he doubted if there was anyone present who would be willing to sell his life for \$5,000. His only complaint against the bill was it didn't go far enough.

Mr. D. Melvin thought the manufacturers took a wrong view of the bill. The main idea was to compel them to take every precaution to prevent accidents rather than to pay compensation for them after they occurred. To take the clause as to liability for negligence of fellow-workmen out of the bill, you might as well drop it altogether.

Mr. J. Fraser Gregory thought that a good many of the speakers had lost sight of the real object of the bill, which he took it was to fix the liability for compensation on to the proper person. Many accidents happened which were in no sense the fault of the employer, but of fellow workmen. Every employer did his best to keep only competent men, but even competent men might at some time and for some reason be temporarily incompetent. He would not object to the employer being liable for injuries caused by a fellow workman, if the workman injured had noticed that his fellow workman was incompetent and had called the employer's attention to the fact. He knew there was an objection on the part of workmen to complain of each other, but it was only right in the interests of the employer that they should do so, if he was to be expected to take the risks arising from such incompetence. As to the complaints of the longshoremen, he thought there certainly should be more superintendence in the loading and unloading of vessels. There ought to be an official appointed to inspect the rigging on whom the responsibility for accidents arising from defective rigging should be placed.

Mr. Charles McDonald of St. John, said he understood that Mr. Hatheway was the instigator of the bill under discussion. Mr. Hatheway should not always be taken too seriously for he didn't always take himself seriously, and also he did not always practice what he preached. He had been a success in some lines of business, and along with the Premier 3rd of March. He congratulated the Premier on that success, which was attributed to many causes, and in this connection it could not be forgotten that Mr. Hatheway was confined in the house with a severe cold for two or three weeks preceding the election. The bill under discussion might work an injury to interests which were intended to be protected, and he thought that the law as it stands at the present time was quite sufficient to protect the interests of both employer and employee.

Dr. McInerney said the question under discussion was a very old one, the question between capital and labor, but he thought the best solution would be arrived at by mutual concessions and provisions. Some parts of the bill would seem to weigh heavily on the employers, but he did not think the bill was such a bug-bear as was thought. A great deal had been said about the negligence of fellow workmen, and he agreed with Mr. Gregory in what he said about notice being given to the employer. It was the duty of every employer to keep only competent men, and if he did so it was an injustice to him to be liable for any injuries which might occur, but if he employed incompetent men it was only reasonable that he should be liable for any negligence he might be guilty of.

Mr. Thomas Quennell speaking as a millwright strongly supported the bill.

Mr. George Swetka speaking on behalf of the Typographical Union, protested against employers having everything their own way and contended that the men who did the work were entitled to some consideration and he urged that the bill should pass.

Mr. F. R. Taylor in closing the discussion said he quite agreed with many of Dr. McInerney's suggestions. If an employer employed a man whom he knew to be incompetent, he should certainly be liable for accident caused by that man but under the act if even the most competent men should happen to prove negligent the employer is liable and an absolute liability is fastened upon the employer.

Mr. Hatheway had discussed the matter from a theoretical standpoint. He had no knowledge of what the insurance tariff would be for these would be made up in accordance with the experience of the liabilities incurred by the Companies under the act. The insurance men whom he (Mr. Taylor) had spoken to said this bill would likely increase the rate from two to three per cent. Mr. Hatheway had made much of the diseases covered by the English act and other provisions which he had misquoted. There were only six diseases mentioned and if these were inserted in this act it would not increase the risk. In leaving out the lumbermen from its provisions this act looked very much like a class legislation. It was also he thought, very ill advised to single out the steamship company for while the lumber interests could not be removed from the province it would take very little additional handicap to drive out the steamships away from St. John to other ports. He found that all the safeguards to the employer found in the English Act were carefully omitted from this one. The expenses of settling costs under this act were just as great as under common law while the English Act provided for cheaper settlements. Neither was the experience of the English act much of a criterion for it had only been in operation a few months. It was impossible to have copies of these regulations approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council posted everywhere that men worked. The workmen themselves selected their foreman and the men to be employed. Mr. McGaffigan said this was not true at all. The S. S. Companies employed their own foremen who were sometimes union men and sometimes not.

Mr. Taylor continuing said he did not see how this act could be urged as a preventive of accident. For this purpose it would be made more direct to commend the factory act. The result of the act would be to impose a very heavy tax upon the manufacturing and transportation interests of the province. Could we afford to do this? Could we afford to handicap the development of industry? Speaking for the C. P. R. he would say that that company did not make enough money out of the local traffic in the province to meet operating expenses. At any rate why should the province jump into legislation that had not yet been tried anywhere in Canada and had only existed for a few months in England. He claimed that amendments should be made so that the contractor's clause would remain as at present, that the employers liability for accident due to fellow workmen should be taken out, also the provision for raising rates and regulations, that claims for compensation should be presented to an impartial tribunal and to a medical referee and that there should be provision for arbitration as in Ontario and England.

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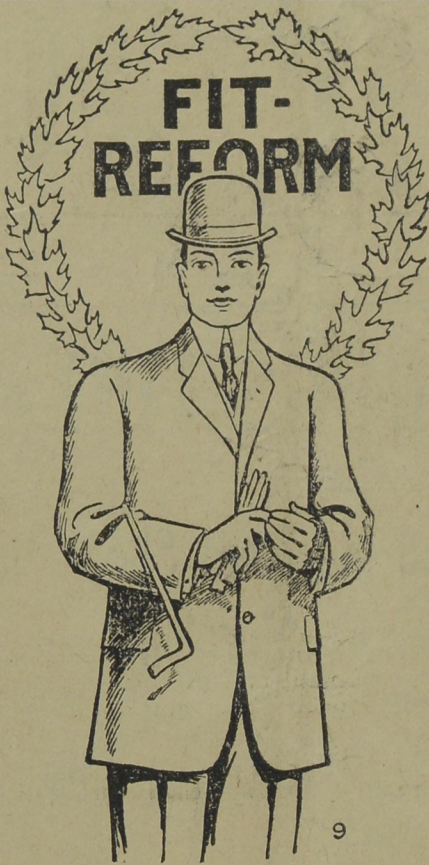
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#### WHILE HIS FIANCEE WAITED.

Young New York Doctor Attempted to Commit Suicide.

NEW YORK, May 21.—While his fiancée was waiting for him to take her to Providence, R. I., where they had planned to be married yesterday, Dr. Jacob Haas, a young physician, cut his throat and his wrists in an effort to end his life. He was taken to a hospital in such a condition that he has but slight chances for recovery. Before his attempt to kill himself Haas had written a note, in which he said he was without means and in poor health, and that death was the only solution of the problem which confronted him. The girl to whom he is engaged to be married is Miss Fannie Thaler, daughter of a Seventh avenue tailor, and a cousin of the young doctor.

#### WAITS CALMLY FOR DEATH.

Wealthy New Yorker Doomed to Die of Hydrophobia Takes Matter Quite Coolly.

NEW YORK, May 20.—Wm. H. Marsh, an aged wealthy man, when told yesterday that he undoubtedly would die within a week of hydrophobia, calmly turned away with the remark that he would be ready for the summons when it came. With a tremor he walked down the steps of the Pasteur Institute, stepped into his carriage and started for his home in Brooklyn. "You waited too long," the surgeons at the institute told him after they had made their examination. "Our treatment cannot help you; you have hydrophobia." "Well," he said, "if I have to go I can face it. My business is in shape. I'd rather die some other way, but I'm not afraid."

#### FOUGHT MADMAN ON DOME.

Thrilling Battle Between Maniac and Policeman.

NEW YORK, May 20.—A despatch to the Times from St. Louis says: A policeman and a maniac struggled desperately for more than half an hour on the dome of the asylum here yesterday, each clinging with one hand to a slender flagpole. The men had an area of but three square feet on which to stand, and a fall meant a drop of eighty-five feet.

George Gall, the lunatic, escaped from the observation ward of the city hospital yesterday morning. Picking up a heavy iron bar he fought off the guards and reached the top of the dome. For fifteen minutes he held this fort. Then Policeman Jas. H. Omohundro went up the spiral ladder singlehanded. Omohundro used his club and Gall the iron bar. While the men were fighting the policeman's helmet fell off and Gall

leaned over the platform to watch it fall. Throwing his arm about the maniac's neck, Omohundro jerked him off his feet with a sudden twist. Gall's body hung over the platform, but the policeman held him until firemen handed him a rope. He tied the rope about Gall's body and lowered him to the ground.

"Doctor, I suppose I am an old fool, but I have made a discovery that gives me some uneasiness."

"What is it, Kadger?"

"I was passing my hand over my head the other day and I found one place that's a good deal hotter than any other spot. I thought it was all imagination at first, but it isn't. Put your hand on the top of my head, pretty well back. There, that's the place. Doesn't it feel hotter than the rest of my head?"

"It certainly does."

"Well, now, I am anxious to know what that means. If it indicates that there's too much brain pressure at that particular place on your head it is serious?"

"Kadger, it is."

"I feared so. Tell me the truth, doctor, no matter what it is."

"I hesitate to tell you because—"

"Doctor, I insist on knowing."

"Well, if you must know, Kadger, that particular place on your head feels hot to your hand because you're getting a bald spot there."—Chicago Tribune.

The office boy pried the first page by dropping the form down two flights of stairs.

I wish, murmured the gentle editor that you had broken the news more gently.

Mr. Murray said Rev. Dr. Brown, "I want you to have So-and-So, who keeps a saloon down in Fourth street, arrested. He gave this boy a drink."

"Well, ahem!" was the first characteristic utterance of the attorney as he brushed his hand over his head and face. "What time were you in that saloon, my lad?" he inquired, turning to the boy.

"Just come out a minute ago," replied the urchin, modestly.

"Hum! Yes, yes! How did you come to go in?"

"Don't know. Just happened to."

"Gave you a drink, did he?"

"Yes."

And the boy wiped his face with his upward stroke of the palm of his hand, while Rev. Dr. Brown looked on with an expression of satisfaction. Mr. Murray scratched his head a moment and proceeded:

"Ahem! Well, what did he give you to drink?"

"Glass of water?" answered the boy.

"Why didn't you tell me that before, exclaimed the minister, turning very red in the face.

"You didn't ask me, sir," said the

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#### NOTICE OF LEGISLATION

The City of Fredericton will apply at the next session of the Legislature of New Brunswick for an Act to authorize the said City annually to present the University of New Brunswick a medal for competition among the students.

(Sgd) J. W. McCREADY,  
City Clerk.

#### A PAIL OF ADVERTISING

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