

## **Government Seeks Power to Appoint Building Inspectors in Towns and Cities Where Authorities Have Not Done So — Structural Men Protected.**

That the Government is not going to stand aside indifferently and allow municipalities to neglect the protection of men engaged in the construction of buildings is evident from the wording of the act introduced in the Legislature by Sir James Whitney. The increasing danger to workmen as a result of the construction of large buildings, and the indifference that contractors have been displaying, notwithstanding local by-laws with regard to scaffolding, were impressed upon the Government by a deputation from the Dominion Trades and Labor Council some weeks ago, and the bill introduced by the Prime Minister covers the points raised then.

The most important clause in the bill is one that gives the Government power to appoint building inspectors in any city or town where it appears the municipality has not done its full duty in that regard, and provides further that the salaries or remuneration of such inspectors shall be paid by the municipality.

### **Railings for Scaffolds.**

Scaffolding or staging suspended from an overhead support more than twenty feet from the ground or floor must have a properly attached railing extending around it thirty-four inches from the flooring of the scaffold, which shall be secured to the building to prevent it swaying. The act also provides that where the floors of a building are to be arched between the beams or where the floors or filling in are of fireproof material or brickwork, the contractor shall complete the flooring or filling in as the building progresses to not less than two stories below the one to which the building has been erected.

### **Contractors Must Lay Floors.**

Where the plans do not call for brickwork or fireproof material for the floors the contractor for the carpenter work shall lay the under flooring of the building on each story as the building progresses. Where double floors are to be used the contractor shall keep planked over the floor two stories below the one on which the work is being performed.

The structural steel men are protected by a clause, which, if the act becomes law, will require contractors to plank over the various floors of the building except for such spaces as may reasonably be required for the proper construction of the work, for the raising and lowering of material, etc. In the case of elevators, elevating machines and hod-hoisting apparatus, used within a building during construction, the openings must be closed in by a barrier at least eight feet in height except on two sides which may be used for taking off and putting on materials. These open sides must be guarded by an adjustable barrier.

### **Protection for the Public.**

The interests of the public are looked after by a clause which provides that if a building in course of construction is five stories or more in height no lumber or timber for such construction shall be lifted outside the building.

The bill provides penalties of not more than \$500.