

MANUFACTURERS MAKE PROTEST AGAINST W.C.A.

Deputation Appears Before
Premier Drury and Hon.
Walter Rollo

AMENDMENTS SCORED

Plan to Make Increases in Workers' Pensions Retroac- tive Bad in Principle

Representative industrial men, including a large delegation from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, entered protest yesterday against some of the proposed amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act. The deputation met Premier Drury and Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor. They submitted a memorandum pointing out that Ontario was the most liberal in its compensation of any Province in Canada, except Manitoba, and of any State in United States. While making no direct suggestion that farmers should come under the act, the memorandum says that the omission of the farmers is the most striking of all the industries not covered. The memorandum makes no protest against increases to widows, and it is stated that the industries have no desire to fight such increases.

J. E. Walsh, Manager of the Transportation Department of the C. M. A., headed the deputation, and was the main spokesman.

No Appeal From Act.

He said that the C. M. A., representing 2,100 Ontario industries, and employing about 400,000 workers, is in favor of workmen's compensation. "We are under the impression that the introducer of the bill setting forth the amendments has not fully analyzed its effect on the industrial life of Ontario," said Mr. Walsh, who then submitted the memorandum setting forth the views of the deputation.

In the memorandum it is pointed out that several industries are not included in the act, the most striking being farming. They further pointed out that industries had no choice whether or not they would come under the act, nor had they any appeal from the decision of the board.

A comparison with the schemes in use in other Provinces of Canada and the States of United States shows, says the brief, that Ontario is the most liberal, with the exception of Manitoba, which is not a manufacturing Province.

Amendments Wrong in Principle.

The employers represented by the C. M. A. do not object to any reasonable increase being made in the scale of compensation to widows and children. If the principle of making increases retroactive is adopted, the deputation claimed that industries now in operation will be obliged to provide not only for their own pensioners, "but for the trail of pensioners left behind by the munition works and other concerns which have done business from time to time since January 1, 1915, but have now been wound up or have left the country." This, they pointed out, is on top of the proposed increases in the rate of tax on manufacturers of 36.3 per cent. due to the rise in the scale of compensation from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent.

They claimed the amendments were wrong in principle. There was a danger of increasing the tendency to malingering. They declared that it was not an old age pensions act or an unemployment insurance act.

However desirable these features may be, it was submitted that they should be furnished at the expense of the State in the first instance, and should not lightly be incorporated in a measure of industrial insurance which is for the compensation of workmen injured through accident during their employment.

Fix Scale Too High.

The memorandum points out that the highest compensation in the United States is in California, with a weekly allowance of \$20.83, while in Ontario under the amendments it would be \$28.84. It is also thought "it is unsound to fix a scale so high that the highly paid worker is receiving much more than is required for such maintenance." It points out that the maintenance of a lower paid man is now greater than for a higher paid man. It submits that to abandon the principle of maintenance during disability and to create the "profiteer pensioner," i.e., the malingering, is the result of such a distinction.

Those on the deputation were: George Valentine, S. R. Parsons, J. C. Hossack, F. J. Cernandt, J. A. McMahon, Jas. Foot, F. M. Tobin, G. S. Watts, W. McKennedy, C. J. MacFarlane, D. McLachlin, F. Harkness, W. Grandjean, J. S. Henson, C. T. Miller, W. A. Veitch, H. V. Greene, H. H. Champ, Thos. Roden, J. E. Walsh, J. P. White, Mr. Bigwood of the C. M. A.; Angus MacMurchy of the C. P. R.; W. Cawkell, Canadian Furniture Manufacturers; A. E. Neally and D. McLaughlin of the Canadian Mining Association, and Frank Hockins of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association.

Hamilton Must Change Entrance to Cemetery

Before Hamilton can use the grounds at Carrol's Point for cemetery purposes the entrance from the highway must be approved by the Minister of Highways. It was pointed out in the Private Bills Committee yesterday that the road in that vicinity was very dangerous, and that large funerals would congest traffic at the most dangerous point. Hon. F. C. Biggs corroborated this and stated that the scheme would not get his approval until the entrance was satisfactory to prevent such dangers as had been spoken of. With this stipulation the bill passed, although it was fought strenuously by representatives of East Flamboro' Township. Another objection was that the city should not spend \$60,000 or \$70,000 without a vote of the people.

SLIGHT CHANGE IN ACT.

A change in the act respecting community halls and athletic fields in rural districts makes the loan available for the purpose of getting athletic fields alone, if a hall has been secured without Government assistance.

HAMILTON TO WAIT FOR ITS GAS PLANT

BILL TO PERMIT IMMEDIATE VOTE IS THROWN OUT BY COMMITTEE

Argument that Hamilton needed a municipal gas plant immediately to make up the gas shortage in that city seemed to have little weight with the Private Bills Committee yesterday, and the proposed bill to permit the taking of a vote by the electors immediately, instead of waiting for the regular municipal elections, was thrown out. The vote was 18 to 16.

V. A. Sinclair, ex-M.P.P., speaking on behalf of the "ratepayers" of Hamilton, said that the city had not made any offer to purchase the United Gas Company. The gas company, he declared, was making preparations to supply an increased amount of gas next winter.

The city put a strong argument that it should be allowed to run a municipal gas plant if it so desired, but the committee voted it down.