

Hon. George S. Henry Se- cures Adjournment of Com- pensation Act Debate

AMENDMENTS EXPLAINED

Minister of Labor Says They Will Cause No Hardship

On the plea that he had not had the necessary time for consideration of the bill, Hon. Geo. S. Henry asked that the debate on the second reading of the Act to Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act be adjourned, last night, just after the Minister of Labor had explained and defended the amendments. No changes were suggested by the latter.

Hon. Mr. Rollo sought to show that the proposed increases would work no hardship on the employers. In the first year of the operation of the act the cost for compensation had been \$1.64 (estimate) for every \$100 of the pay roll. The next year it went down to \$1.27, and continued to go down, until, in 1917, it was 98 cents per \$100 on the payroll. In 1918 there was a slight increase, and in 1919 it had reached \$1.22, and yet that was below the cost to the manufacturer the first year.

The Minister of Labor could not agree with the argument advanced by manufacturers that the higher rate would encourage malingering by workmen. Workmen, he contended, would rather work for full pay than receive a portion in compensation. He contended that malingering which did exist was not among skilled mechanics. It was the foreign laborer who was the malingeringer.

Pleads Cost of Living.

He argued that, because of the increased cost of living, the compensation should be higher. He quoted the figures from the report of the Workmen's Compensation Board that in 1913 the average wage of those paid compensation had been \$13.27, and in 1919 \$24.80. This increase, he contended, was not in proportion to the increased cost of living. Therefore, he argued that 55 per cent. compensation was not sufficient.

The increases would not hurt the manufacturer, the miners or the builders. Mr. Rollo got into a little trouble with the Opposition when he made a general statement that some manufacturers would rather pay the compensation rate than install safety appliances.

Mr. Dewart said that this statement was unfair, and asked for specific cases. Hon. Mr. Rollo then explained that this had been told him, and admitted that most manufacturers did do their best. However, he did not place any more credence in that statement that he did in the statement of manufacturers that malingering would be increased by a higher rate. He thought that Ontario should have the best compensation law because it was the greatest manufacturing Province. There was no intention to make anything retroactive, but he did desire to make the widows' allowances equal.

Hon. Geo. S. Henry asked permission to adjourn the debate. He desired opportunity to acquaint himself with details.

Hon. Walter Rollo: "I think there has been sufficient lobbying inside and outside the House to acquaint all members with the details."

Premier Drury promised full and free discussion in committee, and Mr. Dewart agreeing in postponement, the debate was adjourned.

NO RESOLUTION SUBMITTED YET

House Awaits a Move to Investigate the License Board

There is no resolution before the Legislature yet to form a committee to investigate and report on the work of the Ontario License Commission which Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, has promised. Some time ago a committee was promised to investigate fully the working of the Ontario Temperance Act. It is probable that the committee to be appointed will cover both matters, as they are closely related.

The committee was to have included members from all the parties or groups. Groups have not yet named their members for this committee, and will not do so until the Legislature brings in a resolution setting forth its exact powers and purposes.

Hon. Mr. Nixon was inclined to agree with the criticism of H. H. Dewart during the discussion on the item in the estimates for \$45,000 for enforcement of the O.T.A. Mr. Dewart declared that the board was the most expensive extravaganza in the history of the Province. "If we are to have clean government and clean administration," said the Liberal Leader, "one thing the Government has to do is to clean out this License Board." Mr. Dewart announced that he would move that the whole business of the License Board be taken over by the officer under either the Provincial Secretary or the Attorney-General.

Hon. Mr. Nixon admitted that the present system was not wholly satisfactory, and that the Government had found "unpleasant circumstances" waiting when it assumed office. However, he said, it had been deemed advisable not to "swap horses in mid stream." On Mr. Nixon's assurance of a committee to investigate, the item carried.

TO GO NO FARTHER FOR THE PRESENT

Government Will Not Make Additional Increase in Hospital Grants

Hon. H. C. Nixon, Provincial Secretary, told a deputation from the Ontario Hospitals Association requesting that the Government grant to hospitals be increased from 50 to 75 cents a day and that the municipalities contribute \$1.75 a day, instead of \$1.50, that the Government could go no further this year. Hon. Mr. Nixon's bill provided for 50 cents and \$1.50 from the Government and municipalities, respectively.

Next year more generous assistance might be given, said Hon. Mr. Nixon. "Personally, I am not in favor of spoon-feeding institutions to the extent of eliminating private initiative," he said. "The Forward Movement of the Churches was responsible for raising eight millions. I feel certain that an appeal on behalf of the hospitals would bring even more."

W. R. Rundle, Toronto, said the average daily cost of running hospitals in the Province was \$2.60 a day per patient. J. A. Pinard (East Ottawa) thought the bill could be amended this session.

Superintendent Grant of the Hamilton City Hospitals said that they were having great difficulty in getting outside municipalities to bear their share.