

8th Day.]

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION LAW.

[13 June, 1911.]

Sir JOSEPH WARD : Yes ; where they have a Workmen's Compensation Act in operation.

Mr. CHURCHILL : As far as we are concerned I do not think we have any reason to object to that resolution at all—that there should be more uniformity in the matter of accident compensation. We certainly do not object to the form of this proposition.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER : So far as Canada is concerned, for my part I can approve altogether of the principle ; but it is a matter upon which the Government of Canada would have no power at all. It is within the jurisdiction of the Provinces. I have no objection at all to affirm the principle.

Mr. BATCHELOR : As a general proposition one must agree to it, but, just as in Canada, in Australia this is a matter which comes under the State Governments and not under federal control.

Sir JOSEPH WARD : We have got it already with Queensland and Western Australia.

Mr. BATCHELOR : Probably you will get it with all of them by arrangement.

Sir JOSEPH WARD : There is, therefore, no objection to affirming the principle.

General BOTHA : I feel it to be very difficult for me to accept this proposition for South Africa. We have got the most difficult problem there with the native on the one hand and the white workman on the other. We have already tried in South Africa to get a uniform law passed, and we have not succeeded, as it will not work.

Sir JOSEPH WARD : This resolution says that the effort should be to have more uniformity, so that that keeps you all right.

Mr. BATCHELOR : It does not carry us any further.

Mr. MALAN : It only affirms the general proposition, which is all you want certainly.

Dr. FINDLAY : Your own law is the same as the British law as far as the exclusion of aliens is concerned.

The CHAIRMAN : General Botha, I do not think it commits us to anything but a pious hope that there should be more uniformity.

Dr. FINDLAY : You are in line with the British people on that point, so that we only ask others to agree with what you are doing.

General BOTHA : But you will find that even there we cannot have uniformity in South Africa.

Dr. FINDLAY : It is only with regard to aliens.

General BOTHA : We have an Act there, but there is not uniformity.

Dr. FINDLAY : The only question is about aliens and non-residents, and you do not exclude them under your own law now.

Mr. MALAN : Then you should alter the wording of your resolution. Your resolution does not say that.

Dr. FINDLAY : That is the principle which Sir Joseph Ward asks you to affirm.