

to His Majesty's Government especially desirable in regard to seamen, reciprocity, and statistics, I am directed by the Provincial Secretary to inform His Honour that if it be practicable the Government regard uniformity in such laws as desirable, but with respect to seamen there are doubtful questions of jurisdiction as between the federal and provincial authorities in respect to the matter, and as a preliminary to such legislation there should be a conference and agreement between the provinces of Canada and the dominion in respect to the scope of any proposed Act.

The Nova Scotia Act is, in principle, practically the same as the British law, and applies to workmen without distinction of race or nationality.

I have, &c.,

FRED F. MATHERS,

Deputy Provincial Secretary.

The Private Secretary, Government House.

SIR,—

Government House, Edmonton, 23rd January, 1912.

With reference to your letter of the 11th September last, file No. 1995, I enclose herewith a copy of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, Alberta, being a measure which is modelled on the lines similar to that in force in Great Britain.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE H. V. BULYEA,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. the Secretary of State, Ottawa.

SIR,—

Government House, Victoria, British Columbia, 16th February, 1912.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 12th ultimo, calling my attention to your letter of the 11th September, 1911, upon the subject of greater uniformity throughout the Empire in the law of accident compensation, and to forward you herewith, in reply thereto, a communication signed by the Deputy Provincial Secretary, giving the report of the Attorney-General in the matter.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS W. PATTERSON,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Under-Secretary of State, Ottawa.

SIR,—

Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria, 13th February, 1912.

With reference to the subject of your letter of the 18th September last, I am to state, for the information of His Honour, that the despatch of the 25th August, 1911, from the Colonial Office, covering copy of resolution xi of the Imperial Conference of 1911, concerning uniformity throughout the Empire in the law of accident and compensation, was referred to the Law Department, and the Attorney-General in his report remarks as follows: "The Provincial Workmen's Compensation Act was passed in 1902, and is virtually a copy of the Imperial Act of 1907."

While the Government is anxious to promote in every way uniform legislation throughout the Empire, still it must be remembered that the conditions are so varied in the different colonies that what might suit one place would not suit another.

The Act of 1902 has worked well in this province, and so far there has been little criticism, and it might be a rather questionable move to now proceed to introduce any amending legislation.

As there seems to be no decided movement amongst the people in the province for the legislation suggested in the New Zealand Act, the Government is of opinion that, for the present at least, it will be better to allow the Act to remain as it is.

I have, &c.,

A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,

Deputy Provincial Secretary.

The Private Secretary.

SIR,—

Government House, Winnipeg, 8th March, 1912.

Adverting to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, concerning the uniformity in law of accident compensation, I now have the pleasure in enclosing you a report of the Hon. my Attorney-General on the matter.

I have, &c.,

D. C. CAMERON,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. the Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ontario.

SIR,—

Winnipeg, 5th March, 1912.

In reply to the letter of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, of the 26th ultimo, in reference to the desirability of greater uniformity throughout the Empire in the law of accident compensation referred to me, would say that our Workmen's Compensation Act makes no provision in regard to seamen on any British or colonial ships, unless the word "workman" as defined in the Act can be held to apply to seaman. Our Act further provides that compensation is to be paid only to dependants residing within the province; and further, that our Act makes no provision for the collection of statistics as are mentioned in the memorandum attached to His Honour's letter.

In view of the fact that our Workmen's Compensation Act was considered by a Committee appointed and representing all interests concerned, and was the unanimous conclusion arrived at, this Department would not recommend any changes at present.

I have, &c.,

J. H. BOWDEN,

Attorney-General.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary, Buildings.