

changes that might be made in the Act, taking into consideration the provisions of other States, the adequacy or inadequacy of the law as it then existed, and also to endeavor to correct any defects that might be present therein. The Governor appointed a Commission for this purpose, and recommendations were made, which, it is hoped, will accomplish this purpose. Amendments covering these recommendations were enacted and passed by the General Assembly, and it is felt that Maryland now has a Workmen's Compensation Law which, in fairness to all interested elements, is equal to the law of any State in the Union.

During the year ended October 31, 1931, there was a total of 31,474 industrial accidents reported to the Commission. This was 10,287 cases less than the number reported in the preceding year. Out of this number there were 11,275 claims filed for compensation of which 138 were claims in fatal accidents, as against 14,339 claims filed during the year ended October 31, 1930, 191 of which were claims in fatal cases. As a result of last year's work, there was paid out to injured employees and their dependents the sum of \$927,195.63, which included the payment of compensation, funeral and medical expenses, etc. In addition to the amount herein mentioned, there was \$379,883.31 paid for medical expenses in cases where there was no claim for compensation.

When the General Assembly of Maryland in 1914 passed the Workmen's Compensation Act, they recognized the fact that employers might be put in the position where they would not be able to comply with the Act due to the fact that the private insurance companies would refuse to carry their risk. Furthermore, they felt that inasmuch as this form of insurance was compulsory under the State Law, that they should provide a place where the insurance could be secured at practically the cost of writing this form of insurance. They, therefore, created the State Accident Fund to be administered by the State Industrial Accident Commission.

This Fund started business on November 1, 1914, the day the Law went into effect. Its beginning was small and the money available at that time consisted of premiums paid into the Fund by those insured with it, which premiums were based on an advance estimate of the payrolls of the insuring employers for a period of four months. The State Industrial Accident Commission transferred from the funds allotted to it by the State of Maryland the amount of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of maintaining the solvency of the Fund. A few years later this amount was returned to the State of Maryland.

During the first few years of the Fund's operations the principal business carried on its books was coal mining operations, and the Fund during these first few years was a comparatively small writer of compensation insurance, the large bulk of the business having been secured by the private insurance companies operating in the State. This condition gradually changed from year to year, and, while the Fund still carries the risks of most of the coal operators in the State, there has