



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Bureau of Labor and Industry

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

RICHMOND, January 15th, 1926.

JOHN HOPKINS HALL, JR., COMMISSIONER.

Hon. Harry Flood Byrd,
Winchester,
Virginia.

My Dear Senator:

In accordance with our conversation of the 14th Inst., I am submitting herewith a brief which we consider of vital importance to the State and the success of your administration. Governor Trinkle in his address delivered before the General Assembly of Virginia, Wednesday, January 13th, 1926, Page 18, said in part as follows:

"From time to time rumor is heard that there should be a consolidation of the Industrial Commission and the Bureau of Labor. I have never been able to reach a definite conclusion about this.

It must be remembered that the Bureau of Labor is practically the only department that has for its definite purpose the protection of employer and employee. The State should be exceedingly cautious in denying to these two classes of our people full and fair protection. I think, however, that this same efficiency and economic expert could study carefully the details of the work of the two departments and make a report that would be worth while, so if consolidation is made, it can be done in a safe and sane way. Both of these departments are handling increasing work, all of an important nature, and care must be observed to make no mistake in dealing with them."

In addition to which it has come to our attention there has been on the part of some considerable propoganda for the merging of the Bureau of Labor and Industry with the Industrial Commission under the plea of economy. If this be the real object we wish to call attention to the following: - That the large industrial States of Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Illinois have departments of labor with the industrial commission, or industrial accident board, as a part thereof. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania the Commissioner of Labor and Secretary of Labor, respectively, holding the position of Chairman Ex-officio of the industrial board without additional compensation, and in Ohio the Director of Industrial Relations acting as Secretary to the Commission without additional compensation. In Pennsylvania the Industrial Board, (payment of accident compensation) only receive \$10.00 per diem and necessary expenses when actually engaged in work of the board. If this is true in the large industrial States of Pennsylvania, which has more accidents in one month than the State of Virginia has for an entire year, a-fortiori, this applies to the State of Virginia where the Governor in this same report, Pages 102 and 103, shows a grand total of cases handled from January 1st, 1919, to February 1st, 1926, of 65,477, with a grand total of cases set for hearing for the same period, (supposedly contested cases) of 3,875, or less than 6%. In other words, 95% of the compensation cases