
OBITUARY**CARL HOOKSTADT**

Born, November 29, 1879

Died, March 10, 1924.

The death of Mr. Carl Hookstadt occurred at St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was stricken by illness while in the performance of his official duties. Mr. Hookstadt had been a fellow of the Society since November 21, 1919.

Mr. Hookstadt was born in Germany. While he was still very young his parents emigrated to the United States. The family became settled in one of the smaller communities of Southern Wisconsin. His higher education was at the State University of that state from which he graduated with A. B. degree in 1910. He was, therefore, of foreign parentage, of American rearing in middle western rural life, and of Wisconsin University training and inspiration. It is not fanciful, to see the influence upon his career and the characteristic qualities of his work of this background thus meagerly sketched.

Mr. Hookstadt's career may be fairly designated as that of investigator of labor problems on behalf of the public. His first work in this field was with the U. S. Commission on Industrial Relations in 1914 and 1915 as a special agent. Following this he became an expert in the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in September, 1915, and continued with that Bureau until his death. Practically from the start his work here became specialized in the field of workmen's compensation for industrial accidents with which his name has ever since been associated. A long series of reports of investigations in that field will be found in the Bureau's Monthly Labor Review and its Bulletins. It was this work which brought him into a branch of the special field represented in the Casualty Actuarial Society. Of the importance of his work in this line it is perhaps enough to say that it was sufficient to be recognized by this Society by election to Fellowship.

Mr. Hookstadt's work in the Bureau of Labor Statistics acquired an especially practical effectiveness and value by reason of the work which that Bureau has done toward coordination and standardization of compensation practise in the different

states. The Bureau has from the beginning taken an active part in the development and work of the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions. This organization of state agencies administering compensation laws affords a means for comparison of practice and development of standards in the different states. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has been an important factor in this Association, the Commissioner in charge of the Bureau being regularly named as secretary of the Association and being practically in the position of its executive officer. As a result the Bureau has rendered very valuable service in the direction of inter-state uniformity and standardization. Mr. Hookstadt, as the Bureau's specialist in this subject, thus became a sort of liaison officer between the Bureau and states for information service and advice. At the time of his death he was engaged in carrying out by negotiations with the various state commissions a plan developed by the Bureau with the advice and counsel of the Committee on Statistics of the Association, of which committee Mr. Hookstadt was secretary, for nation-wide statistics of accidents and compensation experience through compilation in the different states under a standard plan of uniform statistics to be combined ultimately by the Bureau into figures of national scope. Sufficient progress had been made up to the time of his death to give good prospect of final achievement of this exceedingly important aim. Outstanding traits in Mr. Hookstadt were his sincerity, his interest in the welfare of wage-earners not from a class point of view but from that of society as a whole, his industry, and his scientific spirit. Perhaps some of his critics may be inclined to question the last-named as being characteristic. But while his eagerness to point the way by his investigations to better things may have at times led him to be over-positive of results or too hasty in conclusions, those at all closely acquainted with him could scarcely question his full intent always to observe all the facts within reach and fairly interpret their significance. The dominant trait in Mr. Hookstadt, perhaps, was a pioneer spirit pushing always ahead. Making all due allowance for points in it open to criticism his work contributed substantially to progress in the field of workmen's compensation legislation and administration.

