

buted to "other causes" 43 were from drowning with no particulars available, 20 of these having occurred in logging. Other drowning accidents were classified under particular causes, being for the most part classified under "water craft" Fourteen deaths were reported due to infection following injuries, and 4 due to industrial diseases.

## 7.—Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation.

Throughout the greater part of the 19th century it was generally held, in Canada as in England, that workers in hazardous trades received higher wages than the average as compensation for the ordinary risks incidental to their occupation, and they were, therefore, considered to have assumed those ordinary risks. It was also held that the injured workman or his dependants could not recover damages if the worker had been injured or killed through the negligence of a fellow-servant or if his own negligence had been a contributory cause. Under the British Employers' Liability Act of 1880 and the Ontario Act of 1886, fellow-servants in the position of foremen or superintendents were for the first time regarded as standing to the ordinary worker in the place of the employer, who was held liable for injuries due to their negligence. British Columbia passed an Employers' Liability Act in 1891, which was amended in 1892 and remodelled 10 years later. The Manitoba Act of 1893 was amended in 1895 and 1898 and consolidated in 1902, while a new Act was passed in 1910. Similarly, the Nova Scotia Act of 1900 was replaced by a new measure in 1909. New Brunswick passed an Employers' Liability Act in 1903 and amended it in 1907 and 1908. Alberta passed an Act in 1908, Quebec in 1909 and Saskatchewan in 1911. Most of these Acts followed generally along the lines of British legislation, while the 1909 Act of Quebec is an outgrowth of the Civil Code of that province. All these Acts involved resort to the courts.

A new epoch in legislation of this kind commenced with the passage of the Ontario Act of 1914, based upon the report of a Royal Commission, and introducing the new principle of making compensation for accidents a charge upon the industry concerned, instead of a liability of the individual employer. The working-out of this principle involved the creation of a State board administering an accident fund made up exclusively of compulsory contributions from employers grouped in classes and assessed according to the hazard of the industry. The example of Ontario in passing an Act of this kind was followed by Nova Scotia in 1915, British Columbia in 1916, Alberta and New Brunswick in 1918 and Manitoba in 1920. Various classes of workers, including either casual workers or farm workers (the farm units being too numerous to permit of successful administration), are generally excepted from the operation of the various Acts.

Quebec and Saskatchewan retain systems instituted in 1909 and 1911 respectively, which enable workmen to obtain compensation from their employers individually. The Quebec Legislature, by an Act passed in 1922, appointed a special commission in 1923 to consider and report upon the subject of workmen's compensation. The commissioners presented their report to the Legislature early in 1925, recommending various changes in the law; many of these were embodied in a new statute passed at the 1926 session of the Legislature and coming into operation Apr. 1, 1928. Its provisions are summarized later on in this article.

Workmen's Compensation Acts in Canada cover practically the whole industrial field, including manufacturing, construction, lumbering, mining, quarrying, transportation and public utilities. In Ontario certain industries (including municipal undertakings, railways, car shops, telegraphs, telephones, etc.) are made indi-