

The greatest number of fatalities was recorded in 1923, with a total of 1,412, the number declining to 1,281 in 1924, 1,044 in 1925 and rising again to 1,303 in 1926. The numbers of fatalities in mining, manufacturing and transportation were also greatest in 1923; in logging, construction and the miscellaneous group they were highest in 1924, while fatalities in agriculture, trade and the service group reached their maximum in 1926.

The columns stating numbers of fatalities in the industries during each of the five years as percentages of the total show that in each year the largest percentage—varying from 24.3 to 28.3 p.c.—occurred in transportation and public utilities. The industries of construction, mining and manufacturing come next with from 12 to 16 p.c. of the accidents. In each of the remaining industries less than 10 p.c. of the total fatalities occurred.

The classification of fatalities during 1926 according to cause showed the largest number (446) to be due to "moving trains and vehicles", 160 of these having been caused through persons being struck or run over by, or crushed by or between cars and engines. Derailments and collisions caused 36 deaths and automobiles and other power vehicles 48. Animal-drawn vehicles and implements caused 40 and water craft 117, of which 64 came under fishing and trapping and 32 under water transportation. Falling objects caused the death of 180 persons, 59 deaths being due to falling objects in mines and quarries, including 37 in coal mines, 10 in metal-liferous mines and 8 in non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying not elsewhere specified. Objects falling from elevations, loads, piles, etc., caused 37 fatalities. Falling trees caused 72, of which 59 were in logging and 7 in agriculture. Falls of persons caused 176 fatalities, including 62 deaths from falls from elevations, 27 of which were in the construction industry. "Dangerous substances" caused 166 fatalities, of which 46 were due to electric current. Of the 122 accidents attributed to "other causes", 18 were from drowning with no particulars available, 10 of these having occurred in logging. Other drowning accidents were classified under particular causes, being for the most part classified under "water craft". Twenty-eight deaths were reported due to infection following injuries, and 18 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