

Section 6.—Fatal Industrial Accidents.

Statistics of fatal industrial accidents have been compiled by the Dominion Department of Labour since 1903, the data being obtained from provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada and various other governmental authorities, from departmental correspondents and from press clippings. Table 4 shows the number of fatal industrial accidents reported to the Department during each year from 1927 to 1931 inclusive. The number of fatalities in each of the different industries is also shown as a percentage of the total number. Preliminary figures show 1,135 fatal industrial accidents in 1931.

4.—Fatal Industrial Accidents in Canada, by Industries, 1927-31.

Industry.	Number of Fatal Accidents.					Per cent of Total Accidents.				
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931. ¹	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931. ¹
Agriculture.....	162	194	156	122	162	11.4	11.6	8.8	7.5	14.3
Logging.....	164	176	235	175	73	11.6	10.5	13.3	10.4	6.4
Fishing and trapping.....	125	43	54	36	33	8.8	2.5	3.1	2.2	2.9
Mining, non-ferrous smelting and quarrying.....	168	260	234	258	154	11.9	15.5	13.2	16.0	13.6
Manufacturing.....	153	201	250	196	129	10.8	12.0	14.2	11.8	11.4
Construction.....	189	250	298	324	206	13.4	14.9	16.9	19.4	18.1
Electric light and power ²	—	—	—	42	44	—	—	—	2.5	3.9
Transportation and public utilities.....	322	387	366	327	199	23.8	23.1	20.7	19.7	17.5
Trade.....	27	64	58	58	41	1.9	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.6
Service.....	104	102	114	117	91	7.3	6.1	6.4	7.1	8.0
Miscellaneous.....	1	—	1	—	3	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.3
Totals.....	1,415	1,677	1,766	1,655	1,135	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Figures subject to revision. ² Previously reported under Transportation and Public Utilities.

Causes of Fatal Accidents.—The classification of fatal accidents according to causes shows that the largest number, 292, came under the category "by moving trains, vehicles, etc.". This includes all accidents due to cars or engines, including mine and quarry cars, and to automobiles and other power vehicles and horse drawn vehicles, as well as accidents caused by moving implements, by moving watercraft and by aircraft. Next in order as a cause came "falls of persons", 231 in number, including those who fell from some elevation and those who fell into pits, shafts, holds of vessels, harbours, rivers, etc. "Dangerous substances" including electric current, explosives, hot and inflammable substances, gas fumes, boiler explosions, etc., caused 165 fatalities. Fatalities numbering 145 were caused by falling objects. Animals caused 43 fatalities, including 29 caused by horses. Twenty-nine fatalities were caused by handling of heavy or sharp objects, 27 by prime movers, 21 by working machines, 13 by hoisting apparatus, 27 due to industrial diseases, 20 to shooting and violence, 42 to cave-ins, and 36 to lightning, frost, storms and sun-stroke.

Section 7.—Workmen's Compensation in Canada.

An account of the development of workmen's compensation legislation in Canada from employers' liability legislation was given at pp. 744-746 of the 1927-28 Year Book, while a summary of the 1931 legislation with regard to workmen's compensation appears in the general sketch of labour legislation in Canada at pp. 668-71 of the current edition. Details regarding the operation of the various Workmen's Compensation Boards of the Provinces are given below.