

14.—Fatal Industrial Accidents in Canada, by Industries, 1935-39.

Industry.	Numbers of Fatal Accidents.					Percentages of Fatal Accidents.				
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939. ¹	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939. ¹
Agriculture.....	124	127	156	156	162	12.3	11.5	12.5	13.4	15.7
Logging.....	116	133	149	143	141	11.5	12.0	12.0	12.2	13.7
Fishing and trapping.....	38	57	52	30	28	3.7	5.1	4.2	2.6	2.7
Mining, non-ferrous smelting, and quarrying.....	175	181	201	253	161	17.4	16.3	16.1	21.7	15.6
Manufacturing.....	133	112	157	136	105	13.2	10.1	12.6	11.6	10.2
Construction.....	103	105	170	154	127	10.2	9.5	13.6	13.2	12.3
Electric light and power.....	25	14	23	19	25	2.5	1.3	1.8	1.6	2.4
Transportation and public utilities.....	184	240	227	166	174	18.2	21.7	18.2	14.2	16.9
Trade.....	44	45	46	44	38	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.7
Service.....	66	89	65	66	70	6.5	8.0	5.2	5.7	6.8
Miscellaneous.....	1	4	1	Nil	Nil	0.1	0.4	0.1	-	..
Totals.....	1,009	1,107	1,247	1,167	1,031	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Figures subject to revision.

Causes of Fatal Accidents.—The classification of fatal accidents in 1939, by causes, shows that the largest number, 291, came under the category “by moving trains, vehicles, etc.” This includes all accidents caused by cars or engines, including mine and quarry cars, and to automobiles and other power vehicles and horse-drawn vehicles, as well as moving implements, water craft, and aircraft.

“Falls of persons” caused 194 fatalities, including those who fell into pits, shafts, holds of vessels, harbours, rivers, etc. Next in order as a cause came “falling objects”, 174 in number. Other fatalities, by cause, were: 142 caused by dangerous substances, including electric current, explosives, hot and inflammable substances, gas fumes, boiler explosions, etc.; 33 by the handling of heavy or sharp objects; 29 caused by animals, including 22 by horses; 28 caused by striking against or being struck by objects; 23 caused by hoisting apparatus; 21 caused by working machines; 13 by prime movers; and 3 by tools. The category “other causes” includes 80 fatalities: 38 were the result of industrial disease, strain, etc., 19 of lightning, frost, storms, and sunstroke, 11 of cave-ins, landslides, ice-jams, etc., 9 of shooting and violence, 1 of drowning not elsewhere classified, and 2 for which no particulars are available.

Numbers of industrial accidents, fatal and non-fatal, dealt with by the various provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, are included in Subsection 2, below, dealing with workmen's compensation.

Subsection 2.—Workmen's Compensation in Canada.

An account of the development of workmen's compensation legislation in Canada from employers' liability legislation is given at pp. 744-746 of the 1927-28 Year Book, while a summary of the legislation with regard to workmen's compensation, including a statement of the scale of compensation in each province, as at Jan. 1, 1938, appears in the general sketch of labour legislation in Canada at pp. 795-796 of the 1938 edition.

Operations of the Workmen's Compensation Boards.*—Nova Scotia.—The Workmen's Compensation Act was passed in 1915, but became effective only on Jan. 1, 1917. During the twenty-three years between that date and Dec. 31, 1939, 182,260 accidents were reported to the Board of which 167,305 were compensated. Prior to Jan. 1, 1920, medical aid was furnished in special cases only.

* Obtained through the courtesy of the respective provincial authorities.