

Causes of Fatal Accidents.—The largest number of fatal accidents to employees in 1944, 392, were caused by “moving trains, vehicles, etc.”. This group includes accidents caused by cars or engines, including mine and quarry cars, and by automobiles and other power vehicles and horse-drawn vehicles, as well as by moving implements, water craft and civil aircraft.

“Falling objects” caused 170 fatalities, and “falls of persons” 166 fatalities. Other fatalities were: 140 caused by dangerous substances, 39 by hoisting apparatus, 33 by striking against or being struck by objects, 30 by prime movers and 30 by handling of objects. Included in the category “other causes” were 116 fatalities of which 90 were due to industrial disease, strain, etc.

Numbers of industrial accidents, fatal and non-fatal, dealt with by the various provincial Workmen’s Compensation Boards, are shown in Subsection 2.

Subsection 2.—Workmen’s Compensation*

In all provinces, except Prince Edward Island, legislation is in force providing for compensation for personal injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, or by a specified industrial disease, except where the workman is disabled for less than a stated number of days. To ensure payment of such compensation, each provincial Act provides for an accident fund, administered by a Board, to which employers are required to contribute at a rate determined by the Board, in accordance with the hazards of the industry. A workman to whom these provisions apply has no right of action against his employer for injury from an accident during employment. In Ontario and Quebec, public authorities, railway and shipping companies, and telephone and telegraph companies are individually liable for compensation, as determined by the Board, and pay a proportion of the expenses of administration. A Dominion Act provides for compensation for accidents to Dominion Government employees according to the conditions laid down by the Act of the province in which the accident occurs. In Prince Edward Island, where there is no provincial Act in effect, compensation is paid to Dominion Government employees according to the provisions of the New Brunswick Act.

Necessary medical aid is given to workmen during disability, except in Nova Scotia where it is provided for thirty days only unless the Board extends this period. In British Columbia, workmen contribute to the cost of medical aid; elsewhere it is borne by the accident fund. Where the employer is individually liable for compensation, he must also furnish medical aid.

Compensation is payable in all provinces for anthrax and for poisoning from arsenic, lead, mercury and phosphorus. In all, except New Brunswick, silicosis is compensated under certain conditions. The other diseases compensated vary according to the industries of the provinces.

Scope of the Acts.—The Acts vary in scope, but, in general, they cover construction, mining, manufacturing, lumbering, fishing, transport and communication and the operation of public utilities, undertakings in which not more than a stated number of workmen are usually employed may be excluded, except in Alberta and British Columbia. Nova Scotia requires persons employing men in fishing and dredging to carry insurance.

* Fuller information concerning the provincial Workmen’s Compensation Acts is given in a pamphlet issued annually by the Department of Labour of Canada.