

Section 7.—Industrial Accidents and Workmen's Compensation

Subsection 1.—Fatal Industrial Accidents

Statistics of fatal industrial accidents have been compiled by the Federal Department of Labour since 1903. The data are now obtained from provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards, the Board of Transport Commissioners and other Government authorities, from departmental correspondents and press reports.

22.—Fatal Industrial Accidents, by Industries, 1944-47

Industry	Numbers				Percentages of Total			
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947
Agriculture.....	109	114	110	117	9.1	8.5	8.0	8.1
Logging.....	137	166	153	185	11.4	12.3	11.1	12.8
Fishing and trapping.....	34	20	41	30	2.8	1.5	3.0	2.1
Mining, non-ferrous smelting and quarrying.....	158	188	175	188	13.1	14.0	12.7	13.0
Manufacturing.....	271	269	345	252	22.6	20.0	25.0	17.5
Construction.....	100	127	132	163	8.3	9.4	9.6	11.3
Electric light and power.....	17	24	22	40	1.4	1.8	1.6	2.8
Transportation and public utilities.....	264	292	238	285	21.8	21.7	17.3	19.8
Trade.....	53	52	53	56	4.4	3.9	3.8	3.9
Finance.....	1	Nil	3	8	0.1	—	0.2	0.6
Service.....	59	88	99	108	4.9	6.5	7.2	7.5
Unclassified.....	1	5	7	8	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
Totals.....	1,204	1,345	1,378	1,440	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Causes of Fatal Accidents.—During 1947, the largest number of fatal accidents to gainfully employed persons, 470, were caused by moving trains, vehicles, etc. Falls of persons caused 233 fatalities and falling objects 170. Other fatal accidents included: 158 caused by dangerous substances, 33 by striking against or being struck by objects, 32 by working machines, 28 by hoisting apparatus, 21 by animals, 17 by handling objects, 12 by prime movers, and 5 by tools. Included in the category "other causes" were 261 fatalities of which 188 were due to industrial disease, strain, etc. The number of accidents, fatal and non-fatal, dealt with by the 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 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 the province, to which employers are required to contribute at a rate determined by the Workmen's Compensation 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 Federal

* Fuller information is given in an annual pamphlet issued by the Department of Labour.