

SECTION XV.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigations.**—A list of the districts from which returns of industrial accidents are received is given on page 135 of Labour-Report No. 6. Limitations of space preclude its repetition in the present number.

2. **Number of Accidents Reported during Years 1915 to 1920.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the years 1915 to 1920 :—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1915 to 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.	
No. of Fatal Accidents	1915	53	23	17	9	31	11	144
	1916	52	18	12	8	21	3	114
	1917	39	15	24	4	18	5	105
	1918	42	20	23	6	31	6	127
	1919	52	22	11	3	31	8	127
	1920	39	16	18	4	26	6	107
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	1915	2,811	401	517	97	980	77	4,883
	1916	2,594	427	428	152	885	76	4,862
	1917	*	408	502	205	855	78	2,168†
	1918	*	370	521	317	733	59	2,000†
	1919	*	338	486	187	627	77	1,715†
	1920	*	808	594	106	569	73	1,949†

* Owing to the repeal of the Miners' Accident Relief Act, particulars as to non-fatal mining accidents in New South Wales are not available.

† Exclusive of New South Wales.

The total number of fatal accidents for the year 1920 was 107, a decrease of 15.7 per cent. over the figure for the previous year. There were decreases amounting to 25.0 per cent. in New South Wales, 27.3 per cent. in Victoria, 19.4 per cent. in Western Australia, and 37.5 per cent. in Tasmania, while there were increases of 63.6 per cent. in Queensland and 33.3 per cent. in South Australia.

As regards non-fatal accidents the number exclusive of New South Wales was 13.6 per cent. greater in 1920 than in 1919. There were decreases of 43.9 per cent. in South Australia, 9.3 per cent. in Western Australia, and 5.2 per cent. in Tasmania, and increases of 79.9 per cent. in Victoria, and 22.2 per cent. in Queensland.

3. **Number of Accidents Reported during the Four Quarters of 1920.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the four quarters of 1920 :—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Four Quarters of 1920.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with	
No. of Fatal Accidents	1st Quarter	11	2	4	1	7	3	28
	2nd " "	8	8	5	2	13	2	38
	3rd " "	10	3	7	..	2	..	22
	4th " "	10	3	2	1	3	..	19
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	1st Quarter	*149	123	127	24	122	17	562†
	2nd " "	*191	146	158	26	201	14	736†
	3rd " "	*237	194	148	29	119	26	753†
	4th " "	*226	145	161	26	127	18	701†

* Owing to the repeal of the Miners' Accident Relief Act, particulars as to non-fatal mining accidents in New South Wales are not available.

† Exclusive of non-fatal mining accidents in New South Wales.

4. **Number of Accidents Reported in each Industrial Group during the Year 1920.**—The following table gives similar particulars regarding accidents in various industrial groups:—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during the Year 1920.

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	10	460	VII. Building and Scaffolding	6	29
II. Engineering, etc. . .	5	608	VIII. Mining	68	959*
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	2	128	IX. Lifts	3	17
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. . .	..	153	X. Miscellaneous . . .	3	74
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	..	103			
VI. Other Manufacturing	11	232	TOTAL	108	2,763*

* Exclusive of non-fatal mining accidents in New South Wales.

The largest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry, 68, or 63 per cent. of the fatal accidents having occurred in that industry in 1920.

5. **Mining Accidents.—Sources of Information.**—The particulars regarding mining accidents in the different States are obtained from various sources. (a) *New South Wales*.—Returns of all accidents to persons employed in or about mines were formerly furnished by the Secretary of the Miners' Accident Relief Board, but details of fatal accidents are now supplied by the Mines Department. The Chief Inspector of Factories also furnishes returns of accidents occurring in smelting works (other than those directly connected with mines), which are registered as factories. (b) *Victoria*.—Returns of accidents are furnished by the Mines Department, with the exception of those occurring in a few metallurgical works, which are registered as factories, and are under the jurisdiction of the Chief Inspector of Factories. (c) *Queensland*.—In this State returns are furnished by the State Mining Engineer. (d) *South Australia*.—All particulars as to accidents in and about mines are furnished by the Chief Registrar of Mines. (e) *Western Australia*.—The State Mining Engineer sends particulars, and in cases of accidents occurring with machinery or boilers, the Chief Inspector of Machinery also furnishes returns. (f) *Tasmania*.—The Chief Inspector of Mines furnishes information regarding mining accidents, while the Chief Inspector of Machinery supplies details as to machinery and boiler accidents which are reported to him.

6. **Classification of Mining Accidents.**—In the following tables particulars are given of mining accidents reported by the Mines Departments in each State during the year 1920, shewing the class of mining (metalliferous or coal) in which they occurred, and the causes of such accidents:—

Mining Accidents.—Classification according to Causes in each State, 1920.*

A.—Fatal Accidents.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
" " Falls of Ground ..	..	..	2	..	7	..	9
" " Falling down Shafts, etc. ..	..	1	2	1	5	1	10
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	2	..	3	..	5
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	3	1	..	..	2	..	6
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc.	1	..	2	1	4	1	9
(b) COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	6	..	2	..	..	..	8
Other Accidents	10	1	..	..	..	..	11
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL	23	3	11	2	25	3	67

* The figures relating to mining accidents do not in all cases correspond with those published by the Mines Departments of the various States, the discrepancies being due partly to the fact that accidents occurring in certain metallurgical works are not included in the figures issued by the Mines Departments, and partly to the fact that there is apparently lack of uniformity in the nature of the non-fatal accidents reported to, and by the various authorities.

B.—Non-fatal Accidents Incapacitating for over 14 Days.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives	6	..	9	1	15
" " Falls of Ground	1	8	1	38	1	49
" " Falling Down Shafts, etc.	1	..	1	20	1	23
Other Accidents	154	1	251	13	419
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	3	..	8	..	11
Other Accidents	1	27	..	97	28	153
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc.	1	71	33	30	3	143
(b) COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.)
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	2	..	2
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	3	2	..	16	4	25
Other Accidents	4	5	..	60	6	75
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	3	..	4	..	4
Other Accidents	13	1	17
TOTAL	11	279	41	547	58	936

* Not available.

† Exclusive of New South Wales

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1920, 22 of the fatal, and †123 of the non-fatal accidents occurred in connection with coal mining.

The number of accidents occurring below ground in 1920 was considerably larger than that occurring above ground, the respective figures for the year being 46 fatal and †608 non-fatal accidents below ground, and 21 fatal and †328 non-fatal accidents above ground.

7. Number of Accidents per 1000 Persons Employed in Mining.—

In the following table particulars are given for the year 1919 of the number of persons who met with accidents per 1000 persons employed. Comparative figures for 1920 are not yet available.

Number of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents per 1000 Persons Engaged in Mining, 1919.

STATE.	FATAL ACCIDENTS.		NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.		ALL ACCIDENTS.	
	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
New South Wales	0.42	1.04	*	*	0.77	*
Victoria	1.51	2.28	3.92	5.47	1.82	4.54
Queensland	0.17	3.10	33.50	8.85	1.00	26.56
South Australia	0.77	..	113.08	..	0.77	113.08
Western Australia	3.41	1.38	62.73	162.53	3.24	71.41
Tasmania	0.51	..	11.63	15.25	0.45	12.01
COMMONWEALTH	1.12	1.32	† 39.50	† 29.15	1.22	† 37.48

* Not available.

† Exclusive of New South Wales.