

## SECTION XV.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigations.**—The various districts from which returns of industrial accidents were received during the year 1919 are the same as those from which similar information was furnished during preceding years. These districts are tabulated on page 135 of Labour Report No. 6, and need not be recapitulated.

2. **Number of Accidents Reported during Years 1915 to 1919.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the years 1915 to 1919 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1915 to 1919.**

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	5	127
	1919 .. ..	52	22	11	3	31	8	127
No. of Accidents In- capacitating for over 14 days ..	1915 .. ..	2,811	401	517	97	980	77	4,883
	1916 .. ..	2,894	427	428	152	885	76	4,862
	1917 .. ..	*	408	502	295	885	78	2,168†
	1918 .. ..	*	370	521	317	733	59	2,000†
	1919 .. ..	*	338	486	187	627	77	1,715†

\* 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 1919 was 127, being the same as in the previous year. There were decreases amounting to 52.2 per cent. in Queensland, and 50.0 per cent. in South Australia, while there were increases of 23.8 per cent. in New South Wales, 10.0 in Victoria, and 60.0 per cent. in Tasmania.

As regards non-fatal accidents the number exclusive of New South Wales was 14.3 per cent. smaller in 1919 than in 1918. There were decreases of 8.6 per cent. in Victoria, of 6.7 per cent. in Queensland, of 41.0 per cent. in South Australia, of 14.5 in Western Australia, and an increase of 30.5 per cent. in Tasmania.

3. **Number of Accidents Reported during the Four Quarters of 1919.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the four quarters of 1919 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Four Quarters of 1919.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with	
No. of Fatal Accidents	1st Quarter	18	5	5	2	10	1	41
	2nd ..	13	8	3	1	3	3	31
	3rd ..	11	5	1	..	8	1	26
	4th ..	10	4	2	..	10	3	29
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	1st Quarter	*173	89	108	31	167	22	590†
	2nd ..	*127	66	124	63	184	20	584†
	3rd ..	*196	92	90	45	151	12	586†
	4th ..	*205	91	164	48	125	23	650†

\* 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 1919.**—The following table gives similar particulars regarding accidents in various industrial groups :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during the Year 1919.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	6	348	VII. Building and Scaf- folding .. ..	9	10
II. Engineering, etc. . .	10	410	VIII. Mining .. ..	76	1,072
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	8	120	IX. Lifts .. ..	7	26
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	..	107	X. Miscellaneous .. ..	6	23
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	104			
VI. Other Manufacturing	5	199	TOTAL .. ..	127	2,419*

\* Exclusive of mining accidents in New South Wales.

The largest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry, 76, or 60 per cent. of the fatal accidents having occurred in that industry in 1919.

5. **Mining Accidents.—Sources of Information.**—The particulars regarding mining accidents in the different States are obtained from various sources, a brief summary of which follows:—(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 are given particulars of mining accidents reported by the Mines Departments in each State during the year 1919, shewing in which class of mining (metalliferous or coal) they occurred, also the causes of such accidents :—

## Mining Accidents.—Classification according to Causes in each State, 1919.\*

## A.—Fatal Accidents.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
<b>(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
"       "       Falls of Ground	1	1	1	..	12	..	15
"       "       Falling down	..	1	..	..	4	..	5
"       "       Shafts, etc.	..	..	..	..	5	1	9
Other Accidents .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in							
Motion .. .. .	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Other Accidents .. .. .	1	2	..	..	2	1	6
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing,							
Smelting and other Metallurgical							
Works, etc. .. .. .	..	1	..	1	1	..	3
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions							
(Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	5	..	..	..	5
Accidents caused by Explosives							
(Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	7	4	..	..	..	..	12
Other Accidents .. .. .	8	..	..	..	..	..	8
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in							
Motion .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents .. .. .	4	1	..	..	1	..	6
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>73</b>

\* 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.
<b>(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	2	4	..	5	1	12
"       "       Falls of Ground	..	2	2	..	45	8	57
"       "       Falling Down	..	3	2	..	15	2	22
"       "       Shafts, etc.	..	1	109	..	237	13	410
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in							
Motion .. .. .	..	4	1	..	21	..	26
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	4	1	1	75	22	106
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing,							
Smelting and other Metallurgical							
Works, etc. .. .. .	..	1	74	146	27	..	248
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions							
(Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	5	..	..	..	5
Accidents caused by Explosives							
(Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	..	6	8	..	2	..	2
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	..	6	8	..	13	5	32
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	4	6	..	33	..	38
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in							
Motion .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	1	1	..	20	2	24
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,034</b>

\* Not available.

† Exclusive of New South Wales.

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1919, 32 of the fatal, and †157 of the non-fatal accidents occurred in connection with coal mining.

The number of accidents occurring below ground in 1919 was considerably larger than that occurring above ground, the respective figures for the year being 63 fatal and †761 non-fatal accidents below ground, and 10 fatal and †273 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 1918 of the number of persons who met with accidents per 1000 persons employed. Comparative figures for 1919 are not yet available.

**Number of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents per 1000 Persons Engaged in Mining, 1918.**

STATE.	FATAL ACCIDENTS.		NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.		ALL ACCIDENTS.	
	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
New South Wales .. ..	0.78	0.65	*	*	0.71	*
Victoria .. ..	1.81	1.89	2.11	5.05	1.48	2.98
Queensland .. ..	2.82	1.33	50.56	7.52	2.43	33.45
South Australia .. ..	1.82	..	86.55	..	1.82	86.55
Western Australia .. ..	3.24	3.24	64.99	226.54	3.24	75.77
Tasmania .. ..	1.25	..	11.74	10.26	1.19	11.67
COMMONWEALTH .. ..	1.75	0.88	† 44.06	† 35.85	1.46	† 42.80

\* Not available. † Exclusive of New South Wales.