

SECTION XV.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigations.**—The various districts from which returns of industrial accidents were received during the year 1917 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 1913 to 1917.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the years 1913 to 1917 :—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1913 to 1917.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Fatal Accidents { 1913	82	24	33	5	34	7	185
{ 1914	61	26	25	3	31	13	159
{ 1915	53	23	17	9	31	11	144
{ 1916	52	18	12	8	21	3	114
{ 1917	39	15	24	4	18	5	105
No. of Accidents in- capacitating for over 14 days { 1913	3,427	308	286	117	813	79	5,030
{ 1914	3,238	367	384	84	763	76	4,912
{ 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†

* 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 1917 was 105, as against 114 for the preceding year, a decrease of 7.9 per cent. There was a decrease amounting to 25.0 per cent. in New South Wales, 16.6 per cent. in Victoria, 50.0 per cent. in South Australia, 14.3 per cent. in Western Australia, while there was an increase of 100.0 per cent. in Queensland, and of 66.6 per cent. in Tasmania.

As regards non-fatal accidents the number exclusive of New South Wales was 11 per cent. greater in 1917 than in 1916. There was a decrease of 4.5 per cent. in Victoria, and increases of 17.3 per cent. in Queensland, of 94.1 per cent. in South Australia, and of 2.6 per cent. in Tasmania, while in Western Australia the number remained stationary.

3. **Number of Accidents Reported during the Four Quarters of 1917.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the four quarters of 1917:—

Industrial Accidents. Number Reported in each State during the Four Quarters of 1917.

Particulars.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C with
No. of Fatal Accidents	1st Quarter	15	2	6	..	5	3	31
	2nd " "	7	5	3	2	4	..	21
	3rd " "	11	3	7	1	4	..	26
	4th " "	6	5	8	1	5	2	27
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	1st Quarter	753	112	85	58	163	13	1,189
	2nd " "	812	112	136	61	207	19	1,347
	3rd " "	*	94	147	101	257	24	623†
	4th " "	*	90	134	75	253	*22	574†

* 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.

4. **Number of Accidents Reported in each Industrial Group during the year 1917.**—The following table gives similar particulars regarding accidents in various industrial groups:—

Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during the year 1917.

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	7	314	VII. Building and Scaffolding	..	8
II. Engineering, etc. . .	4	316	VIII. Mining	79	1,449*
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	..	179	IX. Lifts	1	12
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	3	114	X. Miscellaneous	3	25
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	108			
VI. Other Manufacturing	8	160	TOTAL	105	2,685*

* Exclusive of Mining accidents in New South Wales.

The largest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry, 79, or 75 per cent. of the fatal accidents having occurred in that industry in 1917.

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 Chief Inspector of Mines. (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*.—All information is obtained from the Chief Inspector of Mines.

6. **Classification of Mining Accidents.**—In the following tables are given particulars of mining accidents occurring in each State during the year 1917, 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, 1917.*

A.—Fatal Accidents.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3
" " Falls of Ground ..	1	3	2	1	9	2	18
" " Falling down ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " Shafts, etc. ..	2	..	..	1	1	..	4
Other Accidents ..	3	2	3	..	3	1	12
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Other Accidents ..	1	..	3	..	1	..	5
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc.—							
..	..	..	1	2	1	1	5
(b) COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents ..	18	3	4	..	..	..	25
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Other Accidents ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL ..	34	8	18	4	16	4	79

* 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 Department, 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.

Mining Accidents.—Classification according to Causes—continued.

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	1	1	1	7	2	12
" " Falls of Ground	6	10	4	66	3	99
" " Falling Down Shafts, etc.	1	2	..	25	8	36
Other Accidents	101	1	413	15	530
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	3	..	..	25	..	28
Other Accidents	4	14	..	122	24	164
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc. ..							
..	..	1	135	167	84	7	394
(b) COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.)	2	2	..	..	..	4
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	2	..	..	19	..	21
Other Accidents	37	14	..	86	2	139
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion	10	..	..	..	..	10
Other Accidents	2	4	..	16	..	22
TOTAL	69	233	173	563	61	1,449

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1917, 49 of the fatal, and †1253 of the non-fatal accidents occurred in connection with metalliferous mining, as against 30 fatal and *196 non-fatal accidents in connection with coal mining.

The number of accidents occurring below ground in 1917 was considerably larger than that occurring above ground, the respective figures for the year being 62 fatal and †831 non-fatal accidents below ground, and 17 fatal and *618 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 1916 of the number of persons who met with accidents per 1000 persons employed. Comparative figures for 1917 are not yet available.

Number of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents per 1000 Persons Engaged in Mining, 1916.

STATE.	FATAL ACCIDENTS.		NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.		ALL ACCIDENTS.	
	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
New South Wales ..	1.80	0.83	70.64	79.21	1.27	75.26
Victoria	0.87	..	2.32	20.80	0.73	5.23
Queensland	1.43	..	33.67	10.31	1.11	23.41
South Australia ..	1.43	..	0.36	..	1.43	0.36
Western Australia ..	1.87	..	75.70	189.96	1.79	80.62
Tasmania	0.27	..	15.15	11.98	0.27	15.01
COMMONWEALTH ..	1.47	0.67	46.62	70.74	1.22	54.25

* Not available.

† Exclusive of New South Wales.