

## SECTION XVI.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigations.**—The various districts from which returns of industrial accidents were received during the year 1918 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 1918.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the years 1913 to 1918 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1913 to 1918.**

Particulars	N.S.W	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Fatal Accidents							
1913	82	21	33	5	34	7	185
1914	81	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
1918	42	20	23	6	31	5	127
No. of Accidents Incapacitating 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†
1918	*	370	521	317	733	59	2,000†

\* 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 1918 was 127, as against 105 for the preceding year, an increase of 12.1 per cent. There was a decrease amounting to 4.2 per cent. in Queensland, while there were increases of 7.7 per cent. in New South Wales, 33.3 per cent. in Victoria, 50.0 per cent. in South Australia, and 72.2 per cent. in Western Australia.

As regards non-fatal accidents the number exclusive of New South Wales was 7.7 per cent. smaller in 1918 than in 1917. There were decreases of 9.3 per cent. in Victoria, of 17.2 in Western Australia, and of 24.4 per cent. in Tasmania, and increases of 3.8 per cent. in Queensland, and of 7.5 per cent. in South Australia.

3. **Number of Accidents Reported during the Four Quarters of 1918.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the four quarters of 1918 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Four Quarters of 1918.**

Particulars	N.S.W	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with
No. of Fatal Accidents							
1st Quarter	11	4	4	2	7	1	29
2nd "	9	5	12	2	8	2	38
3rd "	9	6	2	2	5	..	24
4th "	13	5	5	..	11	2	36
No. of Accidents Incapacitating for over 14 days							
1st Quarter	*147	87	132	89	192	11	658†
2nd "	*159	91	129	92	206	22	700†
3rd "	*212	108	138	84	117	11	670†
4th "	*154	84	121	52	218	15	644†

\* 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 1918.**—The following table gives similar particulars regarding accidents in various industrial groups :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during the Year 1918.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	2	379	VII. Building and Scaffolding .. ..	5	18
II. Engineering, etc. . .	6	351	VIII. Mining .. ..	93	1,300*
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	5	190	IX. Lifts .. ..	7	9
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. . .	..	110	X. Miscellaneous .. ..	5	21
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	..	112			
VI. Other Manufacturing	4	182	<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>2,672*</b>

\* Exclusive of mining accidents in New South Wales.

The largest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry, 93, or 73 per cent. of the fatal accidents having occurred in that industry in 1918.

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 1918, 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, 1918.\*

## 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	3	..	..	..	4
" " Falls of Ground ..	5	1	6	..	8	1	21
" " Falling down ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " Shafts, etc. ..	1	2	2	1	6	1	13
Other Accidents .. .. .	3	..	5	1	7	..	16
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	2	..	..	..	3	..	5
Other Accidents .. .. .	1	..	..	..	2	3	6
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smelting and other Metallurgical ..	1	1	2	3	2	..	9
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
(Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	6	..	..	..	1	..	7
Other Accidents .. .. .	4	2	..	..	..	..	6
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents .. .. .	1	1	1	..	1	..	4
TOTAL .. .. .	24	8	21	5	30	5	91

\* 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 ..	..	1	2	1	12	1	17
" " Falls of Ground ..	..	3	12	3	58	6	81
" " Falling Down ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " Shafts, etc. ..	..	2	126	1	11	2	15
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	1	..	1	320	12	400
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	21	5	26
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	3	..	92	21	116
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smelting and other Metallurgical ..	6	1	130	23	48	..	418
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
(Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	5	..	..	..	5
(Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18	1	23
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	..	6	7	..	98	1	107
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	..	1	1	..	23	..	1
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	3	..	..	..	27
TOTAL .. .. .	6	16	299	23	702	49	1,300

\* Exclusive of New South Wales.

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1918, 74 of the fatal, and †1127 of the non-fatal accidents occurred in, connection with coal mining.

The number of accidents occurring below ground in 1918 was considerably larger than that occurring above ground, the respective figures for the year being 69 fatal and †706 non-fatal accidents below ground, and 24 fatal and †588 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 1917 of the number of persons who met with accidents per 1000 persons employed. Comparative figures for 1918 are not yet available.

**Number of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents per 1000 Persons Engaged in Mining, 1917.**

STATE.	FATAL ACCIDENTS.		NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.		ALL ACCIDENTS.	
	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
New South Wales ..	0.78	0.63	*	*	0.70	*
Victoria ..	0.63	1.93	1.09	5.14	0.88	1.89
Queensland ..	2.43	1.35	21.60	7.63	2.15	18.06
South Australia ..	0.71	..	1.79	..	0.71	1.79
Western Australia ..	2.75	3.50	54.28	245.18	2.79	65.13
Tasmania ..	1.29	..	12.12	11.56	1.23	12.10
COMMONWEALTH ..	1.46	0.87	† 24.55	† 36.37	1.26	† 26.21

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