

## SECTION XV.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

1. **Scope of Investigations.**—The various districts from which returns of industrial accidents were received during the year 1916 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 1916.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the years 1913 to 1916 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1913 to 1916.**

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
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days .. ..	{ 1913 .. ..	3,427	308	286	117	813	79	5,030
	{ 1914 .. ..	3,238	367	384	84	743	74	4,912
	{ 1915 .. ..	2,811	401	517	97	980	77	4,883
	{ 1916 .. ..	2,894	427	423	152	835	76	4,862

The total number of fatal accidents for the year 1916 was 114, as against 144 for the preceding year, a decrease of 20.8 per cent. There was a decrease in every State, amounting to 1.9 per cent. in New South Wales, 21.7 per cent. in Victoria, 29.4 per cent. in Queensland, 11.1 per cent. in South Australia, 32.3 per cent. in Western Australia, and 72.7 per cent. in Tasmania.

As regards non-fatal accidents the number in 1916 was 0.4 per cent. less than in 1915. There were increases of 2.9 per cent. in New South Wales, of 6.5 per cent. in Victoria, and of 56.7 per cent. in South Australia, while there were decreases of 17.2 per cent. in Queensland, of 9.7 per cent. in Western Australia, and of 1.3 per cent. in Tasmania.

3. **Number of Accidents Reported during the Four Quarters of 1916.**—The following table shows the number of accidents which were reported in each State during the four quarters of 1916 :—

**Industrial Accidents. Number Reported in each State during the Four Quarters of 1916.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.	
No. of Fatal Accidents	{ 1st Quarter	11	4	5	2	5	..	27
	{ 2nd .. ..	14	5	3	2	7	1	32
	{ 3rd .. ..	11	6	1	2	5	1	26
	{ 4th .. ..	16	3	3	2	4	1	29
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days	{ 1st Quarter	762	104	93	49	147	15	1,170
	{ 2nd .. ..	877	131	109	37	239	20	1,213
	{ 3rd .. ..	804	112	99	42	178	23	1,258
	{ 4th .. ..	651	80	127	24	321	18	1,221

The number of fatal accidents for the fourth quarter of 1916 was 29, as against 26 for the preceding quarter, while the number of non-fatal accidents for the corresponding periods was 1221 and 1258, shewing an increase of 11.1 per cent. in the case of fatal accidents, and a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the case of non-fatal accidents.

4. **Number of Accidents Reported in each Industrial Group during the year 1916.**—The following table gives similar particulars regarding accidents in various industrial groups :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during the year 1916.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	7	278	VII. Building and Scaffolding .. ..	6	17
II. Engineering, etc. ..	5	370	VIII. Mining .. ..	80	3,572
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	..	162	IX. Lifts .. ..	5	11
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	1	147	X. Miscellaneous ..	..	22
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	121			
VI. Other Manufacturing	10	162	<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4,862</b>

The largest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry, 80, or 70 per cent. of the fatal accidents, and 3572, or 73 per cent., of the non-fatal accidents having occurred in that industry in 1916.

5. **Number of Accidents Reported in each Industrial Group during Fourth Quarter, 1916.**—The following table gives similar particulars as to accidents in various industrial groups occurring during the fourth quarter of 1916 :—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during Fourth Quarter, 1916.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal	Incapacitated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal	Incapacitated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	1	60	VII. Building and Scaffolding .. ..	..	6
II. Engineering, etc. ..	..	78	VIII. Mining .. ..	22	942
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	..	47	IX. Lifts .. ..	3	3
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	..	16	X. Miscellaneous ..	..	5
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	23			
VI. Other Manufacturing	3	41	<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,221</b>

6. **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 subject to the Miners' Relief Act are furnished by the Secretary of the Miners' Accident Relief Board. 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.

7. **Classification of Mining Accidents.**—In the following tables are given particulars of mining accidents occurring in each State during the year 1916, 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 1916.\***

**A.—Fatal Accidents.**

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
<b>(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
<b>1. Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
"    "    Falls of Ground	11	3	2	..	9	..	25
"    "    Falling down	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"    "    Shafts, etc.	1	1	..	..	2	..	4
Other Accidents .. .. .	3	2	3	..	5	..	13
<b>2. Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Machinery in	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	3	..	..	..	1	..	4
Other Accidents .. .. .	4	..	1	2	1	1	9
<b>3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing,</b>							
<b>Smelting and other Metallurgical</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Works, etc.— .. .. .</b>	3	..	3	2	1	..	9
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
<b>1. Below Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents .. .. .	8	..	..	..	..	..	8
<b>2. Above Ground—</b>							
Accidents caused by Machinery in	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motion .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other Accidents .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	..	3
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</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 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'wth.
<b>(a) METALLIFEROUS MINES.</b>							
2. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	2	2	7	..	12	..	23
"    "    Falls of Ground	79	4	8	1	70	13	175
"    "    Falling Down	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"    "    Shafts, etc. ..	24	..	..	..	21	2	47
Other Accidents .. .. .	565	8	112	..	457	11	1,153
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion .. .. .	13	1	2	..	33	1	50
Other Accidents .. .. .	295	1	12	..	120	27	455
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing, Smelting and other Metallurgical Works, etc. .. .. .	40	..	95	..	58	2	195
<b>(b) COAL MINES.</b>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	1	..	2	..	3
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) .. .. .	5	2	2	..	16	..	25
Other Accidents .. .. .	1,075	24	14	..	42	1	1,156
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by Machinery in Motion .. .. .	7	..	1	..	..	..	8
Other Accidents .. .. .	251	..	3	..	27	1	282
TOTAL .. .. .	2,356	42	257	1	858	58	3,572

\* It will be seen from the foregoing tables that in 1916, 66 of the fatal, and 2098 of the non-fatal accidents occurred in connection with metalliferous mining, as against 14 fatal and 1474 non-fatal accidents in connection with coal mining.

The number of accidents occurring below ground in 1916 was considerably larger than that occurring above ground, the respective figures for the year being 52 fatal and 2582 non-fatal accidents below ground, and 28 fatal and 990 non-fatal accidents above ground.

8. Number of Accidents per 1000 Persons Employed in Mining.—In the following table particulars are given for the year 1915 of the number of persons who met with accidents per 1000 persons employed. Comparative figures for 1916 are not yet available.

## Number of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents per 1000 Persons Engaged in Mining, 1915.

STATE.	FATAL ACCIDENTS.		NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS.		ALL ACCIDENTS.	
	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Metal Mining.	Coal Mining.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
New South Wales .. .. .	1.14	1.26	49.35	94.95	1.21	75.80
Victoria .. .. .	0.66	3.06	4.18	17.53	0.96	5.87
Queensland .. .. .	1.69	1.59	52.72	12.71	1.66	42.26
South Australia .. .. .	0.91	..	..	..	0.91	..
Western Australia .. .. .	2.30	4.02	74.10	180.72	2.37	78.43
Tasmania .. .. .	2.14	..	17.61	12.42	2.05	17.40
COMMONWEALTH .. .. .	1.47	1.45	41.53	82.65	1.47	54.70