

Information respecting incidence of Silicosis, taken from Annual Reports of Provincial Workmen's Compensation Boards

Nova Scotia:

Act amended in 1940 to include silicosis in coal mining.

3 cases were allowed under the act in 1940.

1 of these proved fatal.

A number of cases are still under observation and are slated for reexamination.

New Brunswick:

Not compensable.

Quebec:

No details included in Quebec reports—1939 or 1940.

Ontario:

Year	Total cases compensated	Number fatal
1936.....	29	14
1937.....	21	9
1938.....	14	6
1939.....	22	7

Manitoba:

Silicosis not dealt with specifically in 1940 report.

Saskatchewan:

1940—all industrial diseases classed together. One case—not likely silicosis.

Alberta:

No reference to silicosis in 1940 report.

British Columbia:

During 1939—6,000 individuals X-rayed (chest) under requirements of Metalliferous Mines Regulations Act.

113 claims allowed for silicosis from January, 1936, to December, 1938.

"Pathological, clinical and diagnostic aspects of this disease are now well established"—Dr. Leroy U. Gardner, Director of the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Silicosis.

Present day control of the problem of silicosis can be effectively brought about by provision of adequate ventilating facilities in mines where silica dust is known to occur.

Consequently, control of silicosis is a responsibility of provincial departments of labour, health, and mines, who administer provincial legislation governing this question at the present time.

The control of this problem is to be brought about by the application of existing knowledge rather than by further research work which, in the absence of application, is of little use.

The inhalation of aluminum dust by miners exposed to silica dust for the purpose of preventing silicosis, has by no means proved efficacious as yet. This method of approach to the problem of controlling silicosis implies the substitution of aluminum dusting for control by ventilating equipment. Ventilating equipment is exceedingly expensive—but has been accepted in American mines as a necessary aspect of cost.

Item agreed to.

224. Health branch. Treatment of sick mariners, \$206,470.

Mr. HAZEN: This item was before the committee at the last session, and I asked the

minister at that time what provision had been made for the dental treatment of mariners. I point out to him I had been informed that no provision had been made for X-rays for seamen suffering from dental trouble, and that in some cases X-rays were necessary. The minister said the matter had not been brought to his attention before, but that he would look into it and inform me. Has he had an opportunity to do so, and if so what arrangements have been made?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I thought I had sent my hon. friend a letter fully outlining the situation. I took immediate action upon his request, and got immediately from the departmental officers the information desired. I was under the impression that I had sent that information to the hon. member. If I have not done so, then I shall do so immediately. Medical provision is made however for whatever medical officers deem it necessary that mariners should receive.

Mr. HAZEN: Perhaps the minister did send a letter; I may have overlooked it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I shall make inquiry as to that.

Item agreed to.

240. Pensions and other benefits. Pensions payable to men on active service, northwest rebellion 1885, and general pensions, \$18,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: My question may not be pertinent to the item, but I shall ask it before all the items have passed. Last session the minister intimated that a grant would be placed in the estimates for the dental association. I do not see it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I was once again unsuccessful.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

126. Mines and geology branch. Mineral resources investigations, \$394,350.

Mr. MacNICOL: What progress is the department making in investigating the production of magnesium metal from dolomite? Ontario is the province in which probably the greatest deposits of the source of magnesium metal are to be found. As the minister probably knows it is a metal lighter than aluminium being only two-thirds of the weight, but has the same tensile strength. While aluminium requires 8 per cent of magnesium metal to give it rigidity, magnesium metal requires 8 per cent of aluminium to eliminate the possibility of fire or explosion from the magnesium metal.