

convey explosives or ingredients to or from the building and who are essentially non-producers.

I may add that the death rate among the employes has been for a considerable number of years well below 1 per 1,000.

*Storage of Explosives.*—Magazine licenses are issued by the Home Office for the storage of explosives. As in the case of factory licenses, the terms require that the building should maintain certain distances from the buildings and works depending on the quantity of explosives allowed to be kept. Only half the specified distance need be maintained if the building is screened by substantial earth banks, and if satisfactory screening is afforded by the natural features of the ground the distances are sometimes diminished by 75 per cent. Magazines are almost invariably constructed of substantial masonry or brickwork, as it is considered that if the explosive is of good quality the only dangers to be feared are those which will arise from outside the building. The only objection to this form of construction is, that should an explosion occur in a building not surrounded by earth banks considerable damage may be caused by the projection of heavy debris. In the past thirty years, three magazines have been destroyed by explosions and in no case were any lives lost or surrounding property seriously damaged.

Licenses for the storage of limited quantities (2 tons of gunpowder or 1 ton of high explosive) are granted by the local authorities, if specified conditions as to construction and distances are observed.

*Home Office Licences.*—Both factory and magazine licenses are prepared in draft by the applicant in consultation with the Explosives Department. When the draft has been agreed upon, the applicant is given permission by the Secretary of State to lay the draft before the local authority, in whose jurisdiction the proposed buildings are situated, in order to receive their assent. If the local authority give their assent, the draft license is confirmed. If, however, they refuse their assent, an inquiry is held by an officer of the Explosives Department, and the Secretary of State, on receipt of the report, either upholds the local authority or inserts additional terms to cover their objections, or over-rides their decision.

*Transportation.*—Accidents in transportation are practically unknown and this may be fairly ascribed to the quality of the explosives, the successful method of packing, and the care in handling the traffic. The method of packing and general regulations as to transportation are prescribed in Orders of Secretary of State made under the Act. Railway companies, canal companies, and harbour authorities have, however, to make by-laws regarding the transportation, loading, and unloading of explosives. These by-laws have to receive the sanction of the Board of Trade before they are operative.

*Importation.*—Only authorized explosives may be imported for sale. A person desiring to import explosives has to obtain an importation license from the Home Office. Before a license is granted he is required to show that he has an authorized place of storage at his disposal. Generally the importer is licensed magazines, but if not he obtains a certificate from an occupier of a licensed magazine, that sufficient storage accommodation is available for the importation. When the importation is effected, the customs officers take samples which are forwarded for examination and the explosive is deposited in the specified magazines. If the samples are reported on as coming up to the required standard, the explosive is placed at the disposal of the importer. Otherwise, further samples are obtained (if the importer so desires), or the explosive is definitely condemned as being unfit for distribution. In certain doubtful cases the explosive is released, on the importer guaranteeing that it will all be used up in a limited time.