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MINING ACCIDENTS IN ONTARIO

The recently issued report by Mr. T. F. Sutherland, Chief Inspector of Mines, on Mining Accidents in Ontario in 1913, shows that very unsatisfactory conditions exist. The number of fatalities is unreasonably large, and it is evidently necessary that much greater attention must be given to the problem of preventing accidents. Every mine manager takes precautions to ensure safety; but the record shows that additional precautions are necessary. Most miners observe the regulations which are made to ensure safety; but the record shows that many of them do not.

During 1913 there were 64 fatal mining accidents in Ontario. Forty-five of these occurred in mines, 11 in metallurgical works, and 8 in quarries. Mr. T. W. Gibson points out that isolated or spasmodic work in the early stages of mining development, where the system and discipline attaching to well equipped and full-scale operations are wanting, carries a proportionately higher accident rate.

Mr. Sutherland states that the total number of serious accidents in and about the mines of Ontario reported to the Bureau of Mines in 1913, was 353, resulting in 45 persons killed and 320 injured; of these accidents 284 occurred underground, and 69 above. The fatal accidents took place in mines operated by 19 different companies, the same number as in 1912. At metallurgical works there were 212 accidents which caused the death of 11 and serious injuries to 201 men. At quarries there were 18 accidents which caused the death of 8, and serious injuries to 12 men.

Commenting on the year's record, Mr. Sutherland says: "While it is to be hoped that the number of deaths from accidents is abnormal for the year 1913, yet it will be seen that a large number are the result of want of proper care on the part of the workmen and those in charge, and also a lack of proper appreciation of the risks inherent to the nature of the industry. Sixty-five per cent. of the fatal accidents during the year could have been avoided by the exercise of greater caution on the part of the workmen, and by the mine operators insisting on a strict enforcement of the Mining Act. There are several mines in Cobalt which have a good record, especially during the past two years. These mines must necessarily employ the same class of labor as adjoining properties, yet their accident rate is much lower than the average of the camp.

"An example of what can be accomplished in accident prevention by intelligent effort is furnished by the Canadian Copper Company, at Copper Cliff. Mr. E. T. Corkill, formerly Chief Inspector of Mines for the Province of Ontario, was appointed Safety Engineer for this com-