

numbers have not been great, because the standard of gallantry required has been fixed very high, and where many are concerned in rescue operations a number of them often play a subsidiary part. It is important that the standard should not be lowered.

It is usual to base awards, both here and in the Dominions, on pretty full enquiries as to the parts played, the nature and degree of the risks faced, and the initiative and persistence shown by the respective rescuers. In cases where grounds for differentiation are obscure, help has sometimes been got from spontaneous expression of opinion from rescuers, that certain members of the party were particularly worthy of recognition. I enclose an extract from the Confidential Instructions issued to Factory Inspectors in this country, which may be of some assistance.

I also enclose copies of the current Warrants of the Albert Medal. The standard for the Albert is very high and, since the institution of the Edward Medal, there have been no awards of the Albert Medal in respect of rescue work in connection with mining accidents or colliery disasters. The detailed information required is much the same as that called for in connection with recommendations for the award of the Edward Medal. Since the War the maximum number of Albert Medals awarded on any one occasion is 8, and they were awarded in respect of acts of gallantry during the Quetta earthquake.

An alternative, which the Canadian Government might like to consider, is the Medal of the Order of the British Empire. I understand that there is no restriction in this case as regards occupation, or any restriction to British Nationals, (although awards to foreigners are not gazetted), but that particulars as to nationality should be furnished. Detailed information would be required similar to that

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