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THE "SAFETY FIRST" MOVEMENT.

During the past quarter of a century, the railroads in the United States have killed and injured 1,500,000 people, or putting it in another way, someone is killed or injured every seven minutes. These startling statistics backed up by an agitation on the part of the Brotherhood of Railway trainmen and other labor organizations have forced the companies to inaugurate the "Safety-First" movement. From the United States the movement has spread to Great Britain and to the Dominion of Canada where a good deal of enthusiasm has been aroused. In Great Britain last year there were 1,011 fatalities on the railroads, or 59 less than in the previous year. An analysis of the cases giving the causes of accidents on British railways last year shows that 30% were attributable to "want of caution or misconduct on the part of the injured person;" 16% were due to "want of caution or breach of rules on the part of servants other than person injured." Over half the injuries were classified as misadventure or accidental. The Great

Western Railway of Great Britain, which is the first to begin the work, has issued an appeal to its men under the heading "Accidents that ought not to happen." The showing made by the British Railways compares most favorably with the record possessed by the American railroads where in the last quarter of a century 188,000 persons were killed and 1,395,000 were injured. In Canada during the last year 568 persons were killed and 3,780 injured. These totals represent an increase over 1911 of 73 in the number killed and of 451 in the number of injured. In the past quarter of a century there have been 8,273 persons killed by the railroads in Canada and 30,011 injured.

These figures show a startling condition of affairs and indicate, that on this continent at least, we have a reckless disregard of life and property. The railroads apparently have sacrificed safety to speed and it is only after a series of disastrous wrecks which cost many lives and millions in money, that they have inaugurated reforms. Wrecks in the United