

## LABOUR AND ACCIDENTS.

This Department does not receive direct reports of mine accidents, and the labour statistics received are incomplete. The following tables, therefore, relating to labour and accidents in Canadian collieries are compiled from the published reports of Provincial mining bureaus.

The total number of persons engaged in coal mining, including the employes both above and below ground, may be taken as approximating very closely to 24,000, of whom about one-half are employed in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the others in the western provinces.

The total number of accidents reported from Nova Scotia, Alberta, and British Columbia in 1909 was 344, of which 100 proved fatal and 244 more or less serious.

In Nova Scotia there were 112 accidents during the fiscal year ending September, of which 34 proved fatal. One-half of the fatal accidents were caused by falls of coal or rock, as were also 48 of the non-fatal accidents. No accidents were credited to gas explosions, and only three non-fatal to the use of explosives. In British Columbia, the total number of accidents was 163, of which 57 were fatal and 106 more or less serious. Thirteen fatal and 33 non-fatal accidents were due to falls of rock or coal. Thirty-two fatal and seven slight accidents were due to gas explosion. These thirty-two men lost their lives in the disastrous explosion that took place on October 5 at Extension colliery of the Wellington Colliery Company. Reports of special investigations into this disaster will be found in the British Columbia Bureau of Mines Report for 1909. Only one fatal and four non-fatal accidents were credited to the use of explosives in this Province.