

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

THE preliminary investigation showed that the data for this report could be secured from two sources:

- (a) Published records.
- (b) Plant records.

Therefore, two organizations were set up, the first, in the office of American Engineering Council in Washington, charged with the responsibility of securing accident and production data available in published records, and in the possession of public agencies and employers organizations; the second, a field force, organized to secure information by personal visits to representative industrial establishments. A more detailed explanation of the organization, scope, and program of the study is given in the appendices.

This part of the report presents in summary form the information and data secured by these two agencies.

The analysis of data obtained from published records was nationwide in its scope and covered the following industrial groups: cement, coal mining, coke, electric railways, mineral mining, quarries, and steam railways.

The industrial groups covered by the field investigation were chemical, electric light and power, gas, iron and steel, machine building and metal working, paper and pulp, telephone and telegraph, textile, wood-working, and a miscellaneous unclassified group.

The building industry was originally included among those to be studied, although it was realized that it would be difficult to secure appropriate information because of the possible lack of accident data and unavailability of a suitable unit of production. The engineers made an earnest effort to obtain data of the character desired. Almost invariably they found that contractors and builders did not keep accident statistics. It was found that those who did could not supply production data in any usable form. For these reasons, a treatment of the building industry could not be developed and included in this report. However, it was ascertained that a great many accidents are occurring in the industry and far less attention is being given the matter than its importance warrants.

Scope of Data.—Through the field investigation, information was obtained from 1,145 individual plants located in all but 8 states. Chemical plants from which data were obtained are located in 16 states; lumber mills in 15; machine-building and metal-working plants in 26; paper and pulp mills in 11; public utilities in 32; textile mills