

Safety—Eventually: Why Not Now?

Herewith We Produce Some Facts and Figures That Will Do Much To Hasten the Day of Safety

NO DOUBT MANY OF THE READERS OF THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES ON "BEING CAREFUL FIRST" HAVE WONDERED WHY SO MUCH ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO SAFETY REGULATIONS AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION. IN THESE PRACTICAL DAYS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE "WHY" AND "WHEREFORE" OF ANY ACTIVITY OR EFFORT BE DEMONSTRATED, HENCE THE NEED FOR ACCIDENT PREVENTION WILL BE THE FIRST ILLUSTRATED. THE RESULT OF PAST EXPERIENCES SHOWING ACTUAL STATISTICS WILL READILY SHOW THE NEED AND THEREFORE THE REASON FOR THIS SAFETY MOVEMENT.

Statistics compiled by one of the leading life insurance companies of America show that in the United States during the year 1916 there were approximately 34,000 fatal accidents; 600,000 serious injuries, and 4,000,000 other injuries. These figures alone are appalling, but when we know that approximately 90% of all these accidents were preventable, we begin to realize that an awful toll of life and limb is being paid grim "accidents," and the time has come when some step should be taken toward eliminating this needless human suffering.

Of this enormous number of accidents over one-half have been classified as "industrial" accidents or accidents occurring to employees of the manufacturing industries and public service companies throughout the country. Thus the importance of a "Safety" movement in an industrial center such as this is at once made plain.

Of the great number of industrial accidents possibly 50% could have been avoided if workmen had not been careless. Another 25% could readily be attributed to "thoughtlessness," while an additional 15% was caused by "undue haste" and "ignorance," thus leaving only about 10% due to unavoidable and unpreventable accidents. Now arises the question:

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THESE ACCIDENTS?

To answer this question briefly yet effectively a few safety rules will be laid down for the shop worker which if properly observed will do more than anything else to prevent you, Mr. Shop Employee, from taking your place among the long list of injured.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY:

CONSIDER A CUT OR A SCRATCH EQUALLY AS DANGEROUS AS A RATTLESNAKE BITE

Cleaning, oiling, repairing and adjusting machinery should not be done while machine is in motion.

Do not allow projecting screws, keys, bolts or other projecting parts on moving machinery.

Keep hand tools properly dressed and in good condition.

Carelessness, fooling, horseplay and the like have no place in a well-ordered shop. It is to your interest to prevent it.

Loose clothing has repeatedly been the cause of many employes getting caught in moving machinery. Keep jackets, etc., buttoned or properly fastened. Torn or ragged clothing is a constant menace to your safety.

Place tools or materials where they cannot be knocked or jarred so as to fall on yourself or fellow workmen.

Tools or materials should not be allowed to lie in passageways. Tripping over such objects, especially when hands are full, has resulted in many accidents, some of a very serious nature.

Compressed air apparatus is useful but dangerous. Never point it at or touch a fellow workman with it. Three deaths resulted last year in this State from "fooling" with air hose.

Defective wrenches are a constant source of danger and have caused serious injury to many workmen.

OBSERVE THESE RULES AND YOU WILL HASTEN THE DAY OF ABSOLUTE SAFETY

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