



## Source 6

## Task

**6a.** How many miners were killed from July 1898 to June 1899?

**6b.** Was this an increase or a decrease on the previous twelve months?

**Look back at sources 1 and 2**

**6c.** Why do you think so many miners are still being killed at the end of the century?

**6d.** Do you think that mining had become a safer occupation since 1851?



## Source 6

Extract from a newspaper report from 3rd August 1899. It is commenting on the Compensation Act. It also includes details of the number of miners killed and injured in accidents from July 1898 to June 1899 and in the previous twelve months. The newspaper also gives the same information for men working in quarries, factories, and the railway service. Additional (miscellaneous) workers in industries including workshops are also listed.

(PRO ref: H) 87/53)

**THE COMPENSATION ACT.**  
 —————  
**A YEAR'S WORKING.**  
 —————  
**BIG CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.**  
 —————  
**SERIOUS INCREASE.**  
 —————  
**FATAL BY 14 PER CENT. : NON-FATAL BY 38 PER CENT.**  
 —————

When the Compensation Act was first mooted "The Daily News," it will be remembered, deprecated the proposed new departure in legislation, on the ground that universal compensation meant general insurance of risks, and general insurance of risks meant increasing accidents, by removing the special incentives to carefulness. This conclusion we based, not on the essential reasonableness of the theory, but upon the experience under the German and Austrian schemes of Universal Compensation for Accidents. Last January, when the Compensation Act had been in operation for six months, we took the trouble to extract the Board of Trade Accident returns, and compare them with the official figures for the corresponding six months of the previous year. The result was a vindication of our warning. It showed that non-fatal accidents had increased by 43 per cent., and fatal accidents by 12½ per cent. during the six months. We expressly recognised, however, the shortness of the period for comparative purposes. We now have the opportunity of testing the Act by a full year's working.

# VICTORIAN BRITAIN

## An Industrial Nation?

Its effect in causing the premature discharge of the more elderly among the workmen we have repeatedly dealt with. All that need now be said upon this point is that this effect will make itself still more visibly felt with the slackening of trade, and the consequent contraction of the demand for labour. At present things are so busy in many industries that even the least efficient pairs of hands are certain of securing full work. Thus the very old and very young, as well as those in their prime showing "silver streaks," are getting full employment. We have also dealt, almost daily, with the extraordinary anomalies and ridiculous legal absurdities presented in the interpretation of the Act by the different Judges. Both these aspects of the measure may, therefore, be left for the present.

We will now merely glance at the number of accidents taking place in the industries coming within the scope of its operation. The figures are extracted from "The Labour Gazette" for each of the twelve months since July of last year, when the Act became operative. The following give the monthly returns for the several occupations under which the accidents are separately reported:

### RAILWAY SERVICE.

	KILLED.		INJURED.	
	Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.	Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
July.....	49	50	967	1,230
August ....	46	42	1,133	1,081
September ..	54	39	1,174	1,052
October ....	43	50	1,100	1,188
November ..	41	36	1,305	1,081
December ..	55	68	1,231	1,222
January ....	45	38	1,297	1,030
February ..	41	42	1,285	1,096
March.....	37	38	1,222	1,195
April .....	42	44	1,063	900
May.....	35	25	1,084	873
June .....	34	35	1,021	889
	522	505	13,892	12,837



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MINES.				
KILLED.			INJURED.	
Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.		Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
July.....	67	68	325	396
August....	82	96	367	373
September..	83	70	399	360
October....	78	47	400	425
November..	46	64	429	463
December..	77	82	424	369
January....	76	72	357	385
February..	88	77	384	315
March.....	73	63	372	366
April.....	42	44	343	317
May.....	90	59	324	322
June.....	72	64	398	327
906	806		4,582	4,418

QUARRIES.				
KILLED.			INJURED.	
Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.		Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
July.....	6	11	132	67
August....	14	8	147	57
September..	5	9	145	63
October....	20	9	153	74
November..	21	9	142	86
December..	8	7	107	102
January....	15	5	119	107
February..	12	11	113	89
March.....	14	8	103	114
April.....	7	8	73	80
May.....	7	10	97	90
June.....	6	6	398	327
135	101		1,729	1,256

FACTORIES.				
KILLED.			INJURED.	
Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.		Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
July.....	39	40	4218	2828
August....	46	35	4248	2665
September..	51	32	4912	3094
October....	56	39	5092	3036
November..	59	51	5251	3149
December..	71	54	5151	3353
January....	62	39	4430	2855
February..	65	42	4961	3303
March.....	43	44	5541	3794
April.....	64	45	4504	3312
May.....	49	38	4985	3722
June.....	50	45	5325	3444
660	504		58,628	38,555

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

(Including Workshops under Factory Act, 1895, and under Notices of Accident Act, 1894).

	KILLED.		INJURED.	
	Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.	Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
July .....	13	22	724	457
August .....	25	17	805	424
September ..	13	17	995	523
October .....	15	13	934	555
November ..	29	15	1009	605
December ..	19	23	1030	556
January .....	14	19	881	553
February .....	25	11	924	559
March .....	16	18	876	588
April .....	22	12	791	597
May .....	18	19	967	606
June .....	29	17	956	653
	238	203	10,892	6,676

### TOTAL INJURED.

Taking the total of non-fatal accidents for the foregoing set of occupations, we find that the following are the comparative figures:

	Year of Compensation Act.	Previous Year.
Railway .....	13,992	12,837
Mines .....	4,582	4,418
Quarries .....	1,729	1,256
Factories .....	58,628	38,555
Miscellaneous ..	10,892	6,676
	89,823	63,742

Or an increase of 38 per cent.