

No doubt your operations are similar to ours. We require that a worker report to the dispensary regardless of how slight his injury may be. We encourage repeat visits and insist that any serious case must be discharged by the nurse or doctor on duty. But as every safety engineer knows, every scratch or cut or bruise is a potential lost-time injury. Careful attention to the causes of the two hundred and ninety nonlost-time injuries will aid the safety engineer in correcting unsafe or hazardous conditions.

Always astounding is a comparison between the national accident ratio and the war casualty totals. All accidents, both industrial and nonindustrial, in the United States during the single year 1947 reached the staggering total of 49,000 deaths and 2,650,000 injuries.

But these totals become even more unbelievable when compared with the total killed and wounded in the American armed forces, including the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard; during the entire period of World War II from Pearl Harbor to VJ Day, a period of nearly four years. Remembering that these figures are for one year—the national accident ratio—while the war totals are for almost four years, you will note the comparison of per-

sons killed accidentally in peace time is only slightly less than the number killed in combat, while the number of persons injured in accidents is nearly fifteen times as high as the combat injuries.

I realize there is a considerable difference of opinion on how safety campaigns should be inaugurated and conducted. In one type the approach is sympathetic and appealing—an educational campaign to persuade the worker rather than to tell him. This might be considered the indirect method.

The second is a mandatory safety program in which rules and regulations are established and rigidly enforced with severe penalties invoked for violations. This we might term the direct method.

Companies must be hardballed in safety matters for the workers' own protection. There can be no compromise with safety. Either a plant has a safety program or it does not have one. Either rules are enforced or they are not enforced, in which case you might as well not have any. The positive approach to accident prevention is by far the better.

All the safety rules and regulations in the book, all the safeguards and mechanical devices ever invented will be of no avail if employees are permitted to disregard the rules.

Accident prevention really pays.

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In the September 1948 issue of "Labor and Industry Review" on page 33, an editorial from the "Sunbury Daily News" was quoted as follows: "That is purely a fraud upon the conscientious worker whose regular contribution in the form of payroll deductions make possible the Unemployment Compensation Fund." Workers do not contribute toward the Unemployment Compensation Fund and this statement therefore was in error.