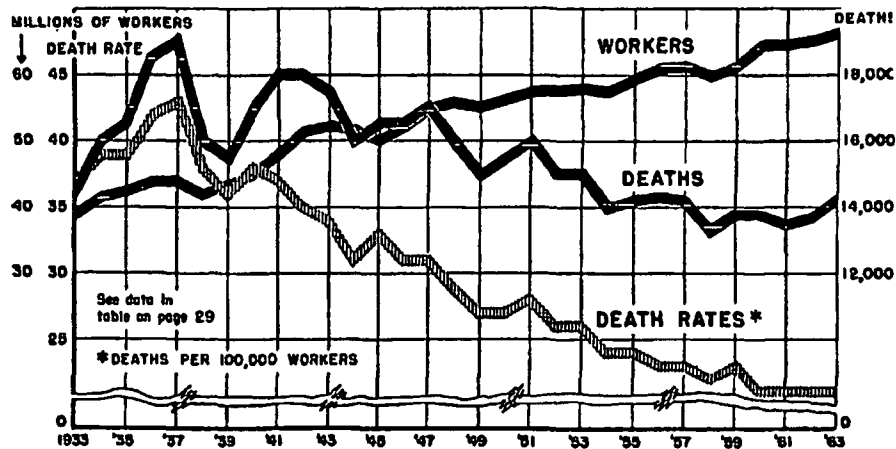


THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY MOVEMENT

TREND OF ACCIDENTAL WORK DEATHS HAS BEEN DOWN



gain, but the larger part is certainly the product of organized safety work

This gain was achieved in spite of the introduction of a new and large-scale source of accidental death in the nation. More than 1,400,000 motor vehicle deaths have occurred in America from 1913 through 1963, against some 12,000 in the years before.

It is worth noting that though death rates for the entire population—that is, for all ages—from 1903-07 to 1963 declined 38 per cent, the death rate for persons of normal working age—25 to 64 years—declined nearly 50 per cent.

Work accident death data do not antedate 1928, but even since that date, there has been a 53 per cent decline in the death rate from work accidents. In fact, despite a tremendous increase in the labor force, there has been a reduction of several thousand in the total number of deaths from work accidents per year.

Figures for 1963 show 14,200 work deaths that year. Although this total was somewhat above that for recent years, it was below the 15,000 total of ten years previously.

The work accident figures probably understate the progress made in industrial safety,

for they include a very large number of non-industrial work deaths. Farm work, trade, and services accounted for more than half the accidental work deaths in 1963. The remaining 6,700 deaths occurred in manufacturing, public utilities, transportation, construction, and the extractive industries (mining, quarrying, and gas and oil wells).

Overall frequency and severity rates for industry are not available, but figures on the experience of concerns reporting to the National Safety Council provide a dramatic summary of the progress of organized safety work in the nation.

From 1928 to 1963, reporting firms experienced a decline in the frequency rate for all disabilities from 31.87 to 6.12. This means that four out of every five disabling injuries per any given number of man-hours of exposure are now being prevented by concerns reporting to the National Safety Council. Both severity rates (number of days charged per 1,000,000 man-hours of exposure) and the number of accidental deaths and permanent total disabilities in relation to man-hours worked declined in the same period by more than two-thirds.

Though these figures represent only com-