* Workman’s Compensation: In 1884, Germany started providing benefits and compensation to those whom had work related injuries. Before the passage of the American Worker’s Compensation Act in 1913, employees had to sue their employers to receive any type of compensation for their injuries on the job. It was very difficult to prove that the injury was the employer’s fault. Because of workers’ strikes, labor unions, and sympathy toward those injured, Congress passed laws to make it simpler to find the employer at fault for work related accidents. Between 1908 and 1913, the establishment of commissions within states made it feasible to investigate employers and safety of the workplace[[1]](#footnote-1). A great need was present for compensation for injured workers during the industrial period at the turn of the century. Machines used in factories were very hazardous, and it was nothing unusual for people to be severely injured in one workplace every day. In 1906, 526 workers died in “work related accidents” in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania alone. The Worker’s Compensation Act started holding employer’s accountable for workers’ injuries caused by dangerous conditions in the workplace. Although the Worker’s Compensation Act of 1913 was not nearly as extensive as the present day program, it debuted as one of the initial laws to protect the rights and safety of workers and to penalize business owners who did not provide safe working conditions.
1. U.S. Department of Labor. Accessed September 7, 2012. http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/mono-regsafepart06.htm.



 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)