

The increase in the number of boilers during the year is almost entirely due to the flax-milling industry. Repairs of a more or less extensive character have been effected in 36 boilers, and in 27 cases new mountings have been fitted. There have also been 28 notices given to fence dangerous parts of machinery.

I regret having to report several accidents, some of a serious nature, to persons employed about machinery. Fencing will not prevent accidents of the description reported, as, with one exception, the sufferers themselves have been to blame—the exception being in the case of a man who had his head cut by a piece of machinery while attending to a stripper, the drum of which flew in pieces while he was in the act of feeding the green flax; one of the flying fragments striking him on the head, and inflicting a serious wound. I made an examination of a part of the drum when inspecting the mill some time after the accident, but was unable, from the appearance of the fracture, to account for it giving way. Care and daily examination will be required to guard against accidents of this nature. No accidents to life or limb have occurred in connection with boilers, although two accidents have taken place from overheating of the plates, which, only for the high class of material of which they are constructed, might have ended in serious results.

Appended are returns showing the number and class of boilers inspected, the horse-power, fees payable, number and description of machines inspected, number of notices given to fence dangerous parts of machinery, number of notices given to repair defects in boilers, return of accidents to boilers, and return of accidents to persons employed about machinery.

I have, &c.,
H. A. MCGREGOR,
 Inspector of Machinery.

The Assistant Secretary, Marine Department, Wellington.

RETURN of MACHINERY INSPECTED during the Financial Year ended the 31st March, 1890.

Description of Machinery.	Wellington.				Marlborough.			Nelson North.		Taranaki.			Hawke's Bay.		Nelson South.		Westland.		Total
	Steam.	Steam and Water.	Water.	Gas.	Steam.	Steam and Water.	Water.	Steam.	Water.	Steam.	Water.	Wind.	Steam.	Water.	Steam.	Water.	Steam.	Water.	
Bark-mills .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bone-mills .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Boiling-down establishments	14	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	28
Brick-making machines	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	12
Breweries	10	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	3	..	3	..	7	..	30
Chaff-cutting machines	17	..	..	..	3	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	38
Confectionery	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Coffee- and spice-mills ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Coach factories	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cooperages	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cordial factories	6	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	12
Dairies	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
Drain-pipe works .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dredging-machines	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	7
Electric-light machines	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fire-engines	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	5
Fire-wood cutting	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	23
Flour-mills	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	23
Foundries	8	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	17
Gasworks	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hauling-machinery	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	8
Hoisting-machinery	16	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	7	..	24	..	9	..	60
Hydraulics	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	6
Jam factories	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lifts (hydraulic) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Locomotives	12	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	2	..	10	..	3	..	31
Machine shops	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	10
Meat-preserving works ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Mortar-mills .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oil-works	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Phormium-dressing	67	..	4	..	16	..	..	7	1	12	9	..	3	..	..	..	4	..	123
Printing	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	8
Pumping-machinery	5	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8	..	2	..	18
Quartz-crushing .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	1	11
Refrigerating-machines ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4
Road-roller	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sausage machines	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
Sash and door factories	19	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	2	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	32
Saw-mills	42	..	..	..	8	..	..	21	..	5	..	..	21	..	13	..	19	..	129
Soap-works	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Steaming	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	11
Stone-crushing	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Tanneries	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Threshing-machines	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	6	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	27
Traction-engines .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Turneries	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	6
Vinegar works .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Winding-machinery	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	5	..	17
Woollen manufactory	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wool-scouring machines	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Totals*	330	2	4	..	52	..	..	87	1	53	10	..	79	..	88	..	60	1	767

* Included in the above totals are seven water-power machines, for which fees have been charged at the rate of 15s. each, and three at £1 each; total, £8 5s.