

LEVIN STATE FARM.—STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

[illegible]

\* This represents 6½ per cent, on the expenditure.

† Credited as under—

Lands and Survey	...	...	...	...	£7 9 0
Lands and Survey, miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	53 13 4
Revenue	...	...	...	...	361 9 10
					<u>£492 12 2</u>

SIR,—

Wellington, 8th May, 1895.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my report for the year ending the 31st March, 1895, and to state that the Factories Act is very generally appreciated and well observed by all persons concerned in it in this district.

It is a matter for serious regret that, owing to the general depression in trade, many of the larger establishments, especially in the iron trade, have had to considerably reduce the number of their employés, and that those kept on are not employed on full time. Another feature that looks bad is that in reducing the hands a larger proportion of men are dispensed with than boys, giving in some instances the impression that the shop is being worked with boy-labour, whilst the men are idle.

There are 430 factories and workrooms registered to date, employing 3,640 persons—*i.e.*, 2,650 males and 990 females—as against 252 factories, employing 3,327 persons—*i.e.*, 2,568 males and 759 females—for last year. You will therefore observe that, whilst we have an increase of 178 registered factories, &c., this year, there is only an increase of 313 persons employed—*i.e.*, 82 males and 231 females. The explanation is given above.