

sale makes their place of industry a factory has not altered since 1895, so the numerical conditions are equal as to the persons so enumerated as in a factory :—

Year.	Factories.	Increase.	Factory-workers.	Increase.
1895	4,109	...	29,879	...
1896	4,647	538	32,387	2,508
1897	5,177	530	36,918	4,531
1898	5,601	424	39,672	2,754
1899	6,286	685	45,305	5,633
1900	6,438	152	48,938	3,633
1901	6,744	306	53,460	4,522
1902	7,203	459	55,395	1,935
1903	7,675	472	59,047	3,652
1904	8,373	698	63,968	4,921
1905	9,123	750	67,713	3,745
1906	9,881	758	70,403	2,690
1907	10,788	907	75,310	4,907
1908	11,586	798	78,625	3,315
1909	12,040	454	78,848	223
Total increase	..	7,931	...	48,969

In submitting these figures relating to employment in factories, I beg to call attention to the sudden falling-off in the year as to the annual increase in persons employed ; the steady rates of such increases having been proofs of satisfactory industrial progress during many years. The diminution may be owing to any one of several causes or to several acting together. Among these may be mentioned the growing difficulty of procuring young people as beginners in the clothing and food trades. As I stated in last year's report, there is, and will be for some time, an industrial shortage of New-Zealand-born boys and girls, because there are few children between five and fifteen years of age to take the places of their elders at work when death, marriage, sickness, or other cause makes a vacancy in the busy ranks. Had it not been for the arrival of thousands of immigrant families, the younger members of which have taken factory employment, the want of hands in some manufactures would have greatly crippled business. The following figures may be useful to show how families among the workers in the Dominion have decreased in a few years :—

*Married Men assisted by Department of Labour from Start of Department in June, 1891, to 1909.*

Year ending 31st March,	Number of Married Men.	Number of Dependent Children.	Percentage of Dependent Children to each Man.
1892	1,054	3,675	3.48
1893	1,808	5,713	3.16
1894	1,836	5,638	3.07
1895	2,007	6,546	3.26
1896	1,880	6,214	3.30
1897	1,084	3,437	3.16
1898	1,163	3,458	2.97
1899	1,178	3,300	2.80
1900	1,115	3,032	2.71
1901	1,326	3,567	2.69
1902	713	1,700	2.38
1903	1,492	3,633	2.43
1904	777	2,308	2.95
1905	953	2,254	2.36
1906	2,027	4,335	2.08
1907	1,427	2,399	1.68
1908	1,440	2,808	1.95
1909	2,538	4,514	1.77

NOTE.—It is not suggested that these figures should be compared with figures in the census returns, because the latter deal with the whole family, while these now presented refer only to young ones dependent on the father. The same rule, however, is here applied for 1892 and 1909, so that it is a fair comparison for the young children.

These figures appear to show that the decline in the birth-rate is not by any means confined to those classes of the community which are sometimes referred to as being enervated by luxury. The number of persons dependent on the married workers who received assistance from the Department of