

Applications for Work.

	Number.		Number.
To assist	96	Laundresses	37
Attendants	3	Lady-helps	47
Barmaids	5	Married couples	11
Charwomen	35	Milliners	3
Cooks	154	Nurses	23
Companions	9	Pantry-maids	14
Factory-managers	3	Porters and page-boys	16
Generals	105	Saleswomen	2
Governesses	5	Seamstresses	10
Housemaids and waitresses	105	Typistes	1
Housekeepers	91	Wards-maids	3
Kitchen-maids	14		
Kitchen-men	14	Total	1,019

Engagements made.

	Number.		Number.
To assist	40	Lady-helps	22
Attendants	4	Milliners	3
Charwomen	20	Nurses	7
Cooks	97	Pantry-maids	9
Generals	82	Porters and page-boys	8
Governesses	3	Saleswomen	1
Housemaids and waitresses	173	Seamstresses	2
Housekeepers	44	Wards-maids	4
Kitchen-maids	14		
Kitchen-men	10	Total	576
Laundresses	33		

Out of these, 130 were married and 446 single.

A very great dearth of the domestic known as the "general" has been experienced. Of this class, 532 were applied for, and only 105 women offered themselves for this work. Comfortable homes, especial consideration, and the best of good wages—ranging from 15s. to £1 5s. weekly—have been freely offered, but in comparison few women can be induced to accept this class of employment; they say that "the general's work is never done," also that they "can get quite as good wages, shorter hours, more liberty, and cleaner work in other branches of domestic employment." This dearth, of course, is felt keenly by the many mothers who sadly require help, and can only afford to keep one maid.

IMMIGRATION.

In reference to this subject, I have to say that the steamers bringing immigrants to our port have been met by me, and all women classified as domestics have been interviewed. Employment, and any assistance which the office can render, has been offered, but only a limited number have availed themselves of this, a big majority stating they "did not want work," or that they "had friends to go to." My experience in connection with this question has been very disappointing, and, from investigations that I have made, I have been led to come to the conclusion that the majority of those women who secure passages as domestics are not what they represent themselves to be; they are principally mill and factory workers, who evidently have commenced to work at an early age. They show a very little knowledge of domestic training, and, strange to add, they generally demand a good increase above the ruling wage, which rate of wages they say they were led to expect from representations made to them before they left the Home-land, and which wage is out of all reason in comparison with their qualifications. I would like to suggest that a better system of selection be adopted, as the present has proved anything but satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

H. R. MORRISON,
Officer in Charge.

The Secretary, Labour Department, Wellington.

WELLINGTON.

SIR,—

Department of Labour (Women's Branch), Wellington, 29th April, 1909.

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the period ending 31st March last.

The office was opened on the 1st June, 1908, and has thus been in existence for ten months. Central offices were obtained in Boulcott Street, and a wide advertisement was given to its establishment by means of circulars and Press notices.

An average of 63 women has been assisted monthly since the opening, or a total over the whole period of 630. Careful record has been kept of the number of applications by employers for servants, and also of the number of women and girls applying for work, and details have been regularly published in the Department's monthly *Journal*.

Quite apart from the work obtained for domestics, several women and girls have been placed in employment in other branches—namely, as shop-assistants, typistes, dressmakers, machinists, seamstresses, &c.