

probable duration of employment will be asked of farmers by the Department, and preference will be given to those employers who guarantee workers some reasonable period of employment.

The clothing trades have been working at very high pressure, and girl and boy labour in the woollen-mills and clothing-factories has been in great demand. Employers have been seriously handicapped by this shortage, and have repeatedly brought the matter under the notice of the Department. I have nothing to add, however, to my last year's report on this matter.

#### FACTORIES ACT.

In view of the fact that the method of compiling statistics as to the persons employed in factories has been changed (see paragraph entitled "Industrial statistics," page xxv), it was decided to omit most of the usual tables this year; so that, except in respect to the number of factories, no comparisons can be made with the former figures. The conclusions to be drawn from the new statistics will, however, be much more valuable, inasmuch as these will cover the whole year's factory operations, instead of only those for a certain day of the year, and will, moreover, show the important item of duration of employment. As the remarks respecting these figures are somewhat lengthy, they will appear at the beginning of the appendix relating to industrial statistics.

The following table shows the number of factories registered from 1895 to 1912, inclusive:—

*Table showing Number of Factories from 1895 to 1912.*

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
1910	12,302	262	77,806	Decrease. 1,042
1911	12,768	466	78,790	Increase. 984
1912	12,847	79	*	*

\* As above intimated, owing to the number of factory workers in New Zealand not having been ascertained this year, these items are not shown.

The following table shows the number of factories in the four chief cities of the Dominion, classified according to the number of hands employed at date of annual registration—viz., April, 1911:—

Town.	Factories employing												
	30 Hands and under.	31 to 50.	51 to 100.	101 to 150.	151 to 200.	201 to 250.	251 to 300.	301 to 350.	351 to 400.	401 to 450.	451 to 500.	Over 500.	Total Factories.
Auckland ..	1,506	54	39	2	4	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1,608
Wellington ..	1,123	27	18	2	2	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	1,177
Christchurch ..	1,261	21	24	6	4	..	2	..	2	..	..	2	1,322
Dunedin ..	1,099	17	22	10	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	1,156
Totals ..	4,989	119	103	20	12	5	5	2	2	2	..	4	5,263

This shows an increase on last year's total for the four chief cities (5,159) of approximately 2 per cent.