

Clothing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—			
	1927.	1928.	1929.
Establishments (number)	229	215	228
Employees (number)	6,881	7,101	7,501
Wages paid	£873,140	£869,953	£943,198
Value of output	£2,600,462	£2,507,446	£2,691,690
Value added by manufacture	£1,211,716	£1,198,064	£1,359,753
Imports, calendar years—			
Apparel and ready-made clothing ..	£1,994,525	£2,156,520	£2,233,995

New Zealand factory production increased by the substantial sum of £184,244, an increase of 7·3 per cent. over the 1928 figures. Imports increased by £77,470, or 3·5 per cent. Of the increase in imports the United Kingdom accounted for £60,000; Germany, £6,000; and Japan, £4,000. Reports from northern factories state that local competition is keen, particularly from the factories using the cheaper class of imported cloth for clothing. Imports of this material seriously complicate the position of the New Zealand mills, which produce in general the higher grades of cloth.

Agricultural and Dairy Machinery and Implement Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—			
	1927.	1928.	1929.
Establishments (number)	25	25	26
Employees (number)	885	779	826
Wages paid	£191,002	£168,483	£183,266
Value of output	£607,339	£610,136	£800,911
Value added by manufacture	£311,614	£320,848	£383,597

It will be noted from the above figures that appreciable increases have taken place in the value of output and also in the value added by manufacture. In the Auckland District the sale of harrows and top-dressers has materially increased during the past year. Keen competition has been experienced locally, but, on the whole, the year has been a satisfactory one. A few southern factories report a fairly satisfactory year, and a new line of top-dressers and pasture harrows has been placed on the market. Other factories in the South report that trade conditions have only been fair. Overseas competition has been felt more keenly than local competition.

IMPORTS (CALENDAR YEARS).

	1927.		1928.		1929.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Agricultural machinery—		£		£		£
Cultivators	541	7,102	1,282	7,667	1,518	15,002
Drills and sowers	1,233	17,629	336	6,309	956	9,893
Harrows, disk	621	8,102	296	3,219	765	10,577
Ploughs	848	9,419	876	9,262	1,026	8,890
Presses—wool, hay, and straw ..	32	2,045	20	1,733	103	6,277
Dairying machinery—churns ..	2,158	5,189	2,447	3,467	2,428	5,368

Woollen-manufacturing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—			
	1927.	1928.	1929.
Establishments (number)	12	12	12
Employees (number)	2,380	2,451	2,576
Wages paid	£369,323	£381,561	£399,560
Value of output	£1,053,306	£1,209,150	£1,236,578
Value added by manufacture	£550,169	£627,305	£647,699
Imports, calendar year :—			
Woollen piece-goods (pure or containing wool)	£787,986	£785,593	£742,649

This industry shows a slight increase in wages paid, value of output, and value added by manufacture over the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year. With a falling wool-market trading conditions have been difficult, buyers being reluctant to place orders owing to the unstable position of the wool-market. In order to show the competition from overseas, import figures for four years are given hereunder, together with figures for artificial silk and cotton. Imports show