

Exports of hemp and tow in each of the past nine calendar years were as follows :—

Calendar Year.					Tons.	£
1927	..	..	..	..	19,600	535,526
1928	..	..	..	..	15,683	394,450
1929	..	..	..	..	14,720	379,942
1930	..	..	..	..	9,493	221,923
1931	..	..	..	..	2,398	38,407
1932	..	..	..	..	3,850	47,312
1933	..	..	..	..	4,402	47,632
1934	..	..	..	..	4,173	52,018
1935	..	..	..	..	4,101	57,553

Rope and twine manufacturers report satisfactory conditions, one report stating that sales have increased from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent. There is less competition in binder twines from overseas, but keen local competition continues for the restricted market. Employment has been normal.

The manufacture of woolpacks from *Phormium tenax* is now an established industry, which offers scope for the employment of a considerable number of workers, not only in the factory but also in the flax areas and mill from which the hemp is obtained. Very favourable reports have been received in regard to the quality of the New-Zealand-made woolpack, and the Government has recognized the possibilities of the industry by securing to the New Zealand factory a definite share of the local market and by other assistance.

#### *Clothing.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number) .. ..	254	249	290
Employees (number) .. ..	7,616	7,877	9,394
Wages paid .. ..	£807,206	£831,871	£952,844
Value of output .. ..	£2,400,599	£2,631,182	£2,958,508
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£1,188,153	£1,264,304	£1,391,877
Imports, calendar years—			
Apparel .. ..	£941,466	£1,030,584	£1,073,844

A distinct improvement is reflected in the statistics for 1934–35, with an increase of 1,517 in the number of employees. During the current year, sales in all lines have been even better, and business has increased. Additional hands have been employed and a good deal of overtime worked. In certain cases there have been reported a scarcity of skilled operatives. Prospects are stated to be good.

#### *Agricultural and Dairy Machinery and Implement Making.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number) .. ..	37	37	44
Employees (number) .. ..	542	532	689
Wages paid .. ..	£97,094	£95,301	£127,124
Value of output .. ..	£329,476	£338,049	£492,925
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£171,475	£179,032	£239,354

Conditions generally in this industry are brighter than in previous years. In the South sales show a continued increase of varying rates from 18 per cent. to 23 per cent., while in the case of certain firms the number of employees has shown increases ranging from thirty-four in one instance to ninety in another. In spite of this increase in labour, overtime has had to be worked during the year. The general improvement in the industry and the increase in numbers employed is confirmed by reports from North Island manufacturers.

#### *Woollen-manufacturing.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number) .. ..	10	12	12
Employees (number) .. ..	2,349	2,466	2,532
Wages paid .. ..	£316,352	£326,156	£345,591
Value of output .. ..	£888,546	£976,813	£1,048,849
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£564,936	£601,140	£588,448

South Island mills report a busier time than during the previous year, with an all-round increase in sales approximating 10 per cent., consequently more workers have been employed and a considerable amount of overtime had to be worked. Towards the end of the period under review a distinct shortage of female operatives was in evidence, and some mills had difficulty in executing orders as required. In the North the indications point to considerable improvement, with trade very buoyant at present and demand brisk.