

RETURN of ACCIDENTS to LIFE and LIMB which have occurred in Connection with LAND BOILERS and MACHINERY during the Financial Year ended the 31st March, 1884.—Otago District.

Name and Address of Owner.	Description of Machinery.	Name of Person injured.	Nature of Accident.	Fatal or Not.	Cause of Accident, and Remarks.
Messrs. R. Guthrie and Co., Dunedin	Wood-planing machine	Chas. Strachan, aged 15 years	Loss of left hand, May 12, 1883	Not ..	Stumbling in front of planer, whereby, in falling forward, his left hand came in contact with the knives. Purely accidental.
Messrs. Guthrie, Larnach, and Co., Owake Pines	Saw-mill twin saw	Robt. Marshall, engineer, aged 45 years	Four fingers of right hand, May 31, 1883	Not ..	After shifting the belt on slack-pulley, used his hat in hand to take the speed off the saw, pressing against the side, when his hand slipped, coming in contact with the top saw. Willful carelessness.
Messrs. Donaghy and Co., South Dunedin	Ropeworks drawing-machine	James Murphy, aged 18 years	Left arm severed from body, July 2, 1883	Not ..	Employed at drawing-machine for straightening fibre. Trying to clean the machine while in motion (instead of stopping it, as his instructions were), whereby his hand got entangled in the flax, drawing the arm completely off. Nothing in the way of fencing can be done here.
Messrs. Donaghy and Co., South Dunedin	Ropeworks drawing-machine	John Congleton, aged 13 years	Left-hand thumb and three fingers crushed, Aug. 24, 1883	Not ..	The boy had been through speaking to the lad at the other end of the machine, and possibly, in turning quickly to get back to his own end, got his fingers in the pinions.*
Messrs. R. Bau-chop and Co., Port Chalmers	Saw-mill circular saw	George Thomson, aged 40 years	Left arm cut off below elbow, Oct. 5, 1883	Not ..	It appears that the man, George Thomson, was shovelling saw-dust from the pit under the saw, when, by some means, the shovel slipped; the saw-bench being low, he fell forward on the bench, his left arm coming in contact with the saw, which cut it clean off just below the elbow. This is one of those unavoidable accidents for which nothing can be done.
Dunedin Iron and Woodware Company	Woodworking machinery, planing machine	William Weir, aged 30 years	Three fingers cut off right hand, Jan. 10, 1884	Not ..	It appears that the man, William Weir, had been making some alterations, under the foreman's instructions, to the screen for throwing the shavings off. While describing the working of this to the foreman (who was alongside) and pointing out some further improvement, he incautiously approached his hand too near to the revolving knife, coming in contact with it, thereby losing the first three fingers of the right hand. This was purely accidental.
Messrs. Findlay and Co., Dunedin	Saw-mill circular saw	John Shaw, aged 36 years	Thumb and fore-finger of right hand cut off, March 19, 1884	Not ..	The man, John Shaw, sawyer, while employed cutting timber 8in. by 8in., and while pushing it on to the saw with his right hand, as is the custom, inadvertently kept his hand rather too long on, when the saw, coming through the cut, caught his finger and thumb, taking them partly off. This also was purely accidental.

* The above case was tried in the District Court, at Dunedin, on the 23rd October, 1883, in which the boy's parents tried to recover damages for injury sustained at the defendant's works. Congleton v. Donaghy and Co.—His Honour, in summing up, said he was of opinion that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover: He was employed at a drawer machine, and was directed when he left to stop it until his return. At the time of the accident he had not done so, and, on returning, he suddenly turned round, and must have got his hand caught. As there was ample room in the passage for a boy of that size to pass, and as he must have raised his hand considerably to get it caught, his Honour held that the accident, though regrettable, was to be attributed entirely to the plaintiff's negligence; under these circumstances he was not entitled to recover.

The INSPECTOR of MACHINERY, Christchurch, to the CHIEF INSPECTOR of MACHINERY.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 17th May, 1884.

I have the honour to forward annual returns in connection with the inspection of machinery in my districts, and according to specimen form received from your office.

The forms contain all the information you have asked for, and the only thing I wish to explain is this: The form, "Returns of Machinery inspected in Canterbury District," shows five flour-mills and one flax-mill driven by water, while no fees are shown for same. These mills have previously paid the fee or have protections to erect before passing and issuing certificate, when fees will be paid.

The printing machinery worked by gas engines I have seen protected, but, as this class of