

restricted to women and boys, and indicates an increase from 950,000 hours in 1939 to 1,240,000 hours in 1940, the figures for the combined clothing-manufacturing and woollen-milling industries being—1939, 476,700; and 1940, 655,400 hours. The figures so far obtained for the present year indicate a still greater increase. Although, as stated, figures are not available in respect of male adult workers it may be safely assumed that these workers are employed an equal, if not greater, number of overtime hours.

Some indication of the endeavour being made to train workers for essential war industries will be found later in this report.

FACTORIES ACT.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Working Occupiers.	Male Employees.	Female Employees.	Total Workers.
1913-14	13,469	15,540	56,655	17,322	87,517
1931-32	16,253	15,305	56,043	18,545	89,893
1932-33	16,176	14,701	52,102	19,334	86,137
1933-34	15,598	14,780	52,357	18,630	85,767
1934-35	15,900	15,095	57,208	21,291	93,594
1935-36	16,434	15,165	63,504	23,582	102,251
1936-37	17,126	16,425	69,088	25,528	111,041
1937-38	17,559	16,326	77,629	29,646	123,601
1938-39	17,842	17,128	77,684	28,911	123,723
1939-40	18,141	16,649	81,507	31,332	129,488
1940-41	17,940	16,300	82,316	34,291	132,907

The figures as to the number of factories and workers employed therein do not purport to coincide with those of the Government Statistician (annual statistics of factory production), as his returns do not cover various small establishments that are included as factories under the Factories Act.

The above figures are those ascertained at registration time (April in each year), except that in order to include factories in seasonal industries which might be closed in April any new establishments opened during the year are added. Thus the figures shown for 1940-41 chiefly represent the numbers in April, 1940. The reduction in the number of factories registered is explained by a number of small factories ceasing business, probably owing to difficulties of supply and labour or because the occupiers have joined the armed forces.

In 1936 the legislation respecting work done elsewhere than in the factory was revised and the licensing of persons employed to do such work was provided for. These provisions apply only to work in connection with textile or shoddy material, but there is provision whereby the Act may be extended to work in connection with other materials. Licenses issued since the legislation was passed have been 1936-37, 2; 1937-38, 88; 1938-39, 42; 1939-40, 47; 1940-41, 126.

ACCIDENTS.

In order that they may be comparable with the statistics of other countries, the figures cover the calendar year 1940. The total number of reported accidents to workers in factories during that period (preliminary figures only) was 5,420 (5,055 males and 365 females). Of the total number, 162 of the accidents occurred to workers under sixteen years of age, 1,001 to those between sixteen and twenty, and the remaining 4,257 to those above that age. Of the 6 fatal accidents, 4 were caused by or were due to machinery. Of the total accidents, 784 were caused by or were due to machinery. The other principal causes of accidents were found to be as follows: Falls of persons (from stairs, ladders, platforms, &c.), 199; stepping on or striking against fixed objects, 335; faulty handling of tools, 1,181; handling of other objects (viz., objects dropped or tipped over, objects falling, or strain due to handling), 1,880; handling of poisonous and corrosive substances, 121; others (miscellaneous), 920; total, 5,420. Disability caused: Temporary disability, 5,303; permanent partial disability, 111. Fatalities, 6.

Information in respect of time lost in 5,224 cases shows that a total of 97,626 days were lost, or an average of 18·7 days for each worker.

The total amount of compensation paid in the 5,329 cases in respect of which the details have been secured was £77,393 7s. 8d.

The following particulars are given of the fatal accidents that occurred during the year:—

A digester in a meat-freezing works was being cleaned with boiling water by two workers, one of whom, presumably thinking that the water had drained out of the drain port, released the safety-catch on the door. He was severely scalded by the water which rushed out. Subsequent examination indicated that the worker had not opened the drain port sufficiently to allow the digester to empty properly.

A worker on a stone-crushing plant, whilst trying to free a boulder which had become jammed, was struck on the throat by a piece of stone. Workers had instructions that in the event of the crusher becoming jammed the machine was to be stopped and the employer sent for.