

PART II.—INDUSTRIES

SECTION 1.—INTRODUCTORY

The pressure of demand for buildings, labour, materials, and power continued throughout the year, although the effect of these conditions was not, of course, equal in each type of industry or in every locality. In some cases the labour position was not as acute as in the recent past. For some industries the flow of raw materials has improved, although, unfortunately, this cannot be said of those very important commodities, iron and steel, in their many varieties.

Full statistics of factory production are not yet available for periods later than the year 1945-46, but progressive development in secondary industry in New Zealand is shown by the following statistics. With the shortages that have inevitably existed during the war years, and since, the industrial expansion is, indeed, remarkable. We can, I am certain, look forward to an even greater measure of expansion when most of the existing impediments, an aftermath of the war, have been substantially removed :—

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Employees.	Salaries and Wages paid.	Value of Output.	Value of Land, Buildings, and Plant.
			£	£	£
1925-26 ..	4,794	78,708	16,153,822	82,358,851	54,388,936
1935-36 ..	5,536	86,588	14,844,367	90,014,748	67,438,879
1938-39 ..	6,146	102,535	22,270,010	114,447,426	76,497,802
1945-46 ..	6,991	128,208	41,499,113	195,258,614	103,890,518
1946-47* ..	..	133,989	45,153,000	216,462,000	..

* Interim figures.

In the more detailed review of individual industries which follows statistics are given, where they are available, for 1938-39 as the latest pre-war year and for the year 1945-46, with interim figures for 1946-47. In almost all cases expansion in the period has been most striking.

SECTION 2.—BUILDING MATERIALS, ROPE AND TWINE, PAPER

(a) WALLBOARD AND BUILDING SHEET OF PLASTER

			1938-39.	1945-46.	1946-47.†
Number of units engaged	..	..	.. *	55	..
Number of persons engaged	..	..	.. *	803	829
Salaries and wages paid	..	..	.. *	£303,209	£318,000
Value of output	..	..	.. *	£1,160,207	£1,175,000

* Statistics not available.

† Interim figures.

Softboard production was maintained at a high level during the year, and, following the arrival of replacement machinery from overseas, production of hardboard was recommenced in July, 1947. To fulfil the demand for hardboard during the temporary cessation of local production provision was made to import supplies from Sweden and Finland. Production of other interior lining boards and fibrous-plaster sheet declined in the year because of the shortage of locally manufactured plaster-of-paris. The volume of plaster-of-paris formerly obtained from Australia has not been available, but provision which has now been made for importation from the United Kingdom, United States of America, and Canada, as well as from Australia, should afford relief to the fibrous-plaster industry. Exterior wallboard production has been