

for women, it nevertheless has a larger number of employees than at any previous stage in the Dominion's history. The following table reveals the trends in the last twenty years :—

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED FACTORIES (INCLUDING WORKING OCCUPIERS)

| Year<br>Ended 31st<br>March. | Persons Employed. |        |         | Percentage<br>of Female<br>Workers. | Number<br>of<br>Factories. | Dominion<br>Population.* | Percentage<br>of Population<br>in Factory<br>Employment. |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | M.                | F.     | Total.  |                                     |                            |                          |                                                          |
| 1929 ..                      | ..                | ..     | 102,795 | ..                                  | 16,677                     | 1,470,654                | 7.0                                                      |
| 1933 ..                      | 66,803            | 19,334 | 86,137  | 22.4                                | 16,176                     | 1,536,964                | 5.6                                                      |
| 1937 ..                      | 85,513            | 25,528 | 111,041 | 23.0                                | 17,126                     | 1,577,109                | 7.0                                                      |
| 1938 ..                      | 93,955            | 29,646 | 123,601 | 24.0                                | 17,559                     | 1,592,108                | 7.8                                                      |
| 1939 ..                      | 94,812            | 28,911 | 123,723 | 23.3                                | 17,842                     | 1,607,826                | 7.7                                                      |
| 1940 ..                      | 98,156            | 31,332 | 129,488 | 24.2                                | 18,141                     | 1,632,835                | 7.9                                                      |
| 1941 ..                      | 98,616            | 34,291 | 132,907 | 25.8                                | 17,940                     | 1,634,500                | 8.1                                                      |
| 1942 ..                      | 96,978            | 37,111 | 134,089 | 27.7                                | 17,421                     | 1,631,276                | 8.2                                                      |
| 1943 ..                      | 92,468            | 38,092 | 130,560 | 29.2                                | 16,408                     | 1,636,403                | 8.0                                                      |
| 1944 ..                      | 94,354            | 38,245 | 132,599 | 28.8                                | 16,010                     | 1,642,041                | 8.1                                                      |
| 1945 ..                      | 99,558            | 39,042 | 138,600 | 28.2                                | 16,537                     | 1,676,286                | 8.3                                                      |
| 1946 ..                      | 104,089           | 37,663 | 141,752 | 26.6                                | 17,289                     | 1,728,441                | 8.2                                                      |
| 1947 ..                      | 115,529           | 37,427 | 152,956 | 24.5                                | 18,291                     | 1,784,334                | 8.6                                                      |
| 1948 ..                      | 125,990           | 36,812 | 162,802 | 22.6                                | 19,102                     | 1,823,074                | 8.9                                                      |
| 1949 ..                      | 128,348           | 36,336 | 164,684 | 22.1                                | 19,700                     | 1,861,714                | 8.8                                                      |

\* Population figures taken to nearest date of factory registration from *Abstract of Statistics*.

(3) It may be seen that the percentage of women employed in factories, after increasing to 29.2 in 1943, as a result largely of wartime man-power directions, has declined since and is now at the lowest proportion (22.1 per cent.) since the early 1930's. This trend and the reasons for it were referred to in the 1947 report. It appears also that factories are receiving a reducing share of the women engaged in all types of gainful employment. These proportions further emphasize the gap between the demand for and supply of female labour. The apparent shortage of female labour is accentuated by the heavy demand for goods produced by women, such as clothing, footwear, and food. Nevertheless, the actual number of women employed is still higher than in any pre-war year, while the number of men employed in factories is over 30,000 higher than ten years ago. It will be noted, also, that the number of registered factories, after declining during the war to 16,010 in 1944, the lowest figure for over twenty years, has rapidly increased since then to 19,700, the highest number ever recorded and 1,858 greater than ten years ago.

(4) *Location of Factories.*—The heavy concentration of industry in the North Island is revealed by the following figures :—

|                    | Factories. | Employees. |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| North Island .. .. | 12,999     | 109,151    |
| South Island .. .. | 6,701      | 55,533     |

(5) *Size of Factories.*—It is often stated that the greater part of New Zealand's production is carried on in very small factories, but this is only partly true. Tables XIII and XIV show the number of workers employed in factories of varying sizes, and it will be noted that by far the largest number of factories employ twenty workers or less. These figures tend to over-emphasize the small size of factory units by the inclusion in the definition of "factory" of such establishments as bakehouses, butchers' shops manufacturing their own small-goods, laundries, and other units not usually thought of as factories. Nevertheless, it is correct that factories are preponderantly small, and this fact is important in administering the Factories Act, especially from the viewpoint of