

from 29,879 to 75,310. Moreover, the increase has in both cases been steadily progressive, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Factories.	Increase.	Factory-workers.	Increase.
1895	4,109	...	29,879	...
1896	4,647	538	32,387	2,508
1897	5,177	530	36,918	4,531
1898	5,601	424	39,672	2,754
1899	6,286	685	45,305	5,633
1900	6,438	152	48,938	3,633
1901	6,744	306	53,460	4,522
1902	7,203	459	55,395	1,935
1903	7,675	472	59,047	3,652
1904	8,373	698	63,968	4,921
1905	9,123	750	67,713	3,745
1906	9,881	758	70,403	2,690
1907	10,788	907	75,310	4,907
Total increase	...	6,679	...	45,431

The overtime worked has been considerable. In comparing it with last year it will be found that Auckland worked its women and boys more and its men less than last year; Wellington worked its women and boys more and its men nearly double the overtime of last year; Christchurch employed its women and boys nearly double and its men about the same as last year; while Dunedin increased the work of women and boys considerably but its men very little more than in the previous year.

OVERTIME WORKED.

City.	Year.	Women and Boys.	Hours.	Men.	Hours.
Auckland...	1905-6	1,685	46,046	563	43,263
"	1906-7	2,025	54,108	468	36,036
Wellington	1905-6	1,614	37,146	952	63,614
"	1906-7	1,828	52,670	2,189	123,129
Christchurch	1905-6	2,405	60,681	1,622	64,059
"	1906-7	2,933	100,474	841	63,975
Dunedin	1905-6	1,198	37,080	785	104,071
"	1906-7	1,877	54,829	940	107,565

There were 679 accidents in factories during the year, 16 of which were fatal. Hence it appears that there was one accident among every 111 people working in factories, and one fatal accident among every 5,000 people. The particulars of accidents will be found set forth in tabular form in this report.

There were 71 convictions under the Factories Act this year, and 5 cases were dismissed (see "Legal Decisions" published in the Report). Among the cases having interest may be specially mentioned that of the Gisborne Borough Council failing to register their stone-crushing plant as a factory (October, 1906), and that of a consumptive patient working as a dentist's apprentice (March, 1907). The defence in the Gisborne case was that working at and feeding the stone-crusher was not a handicraft; but the Magistrate held that the place was a factory, and (as it was a test case) a small fine was inflicted. In the other case the Chief Justice gave a judgment on appeal and confirmed the decision of the Resident Magistrate. The dentist had refused to teach his apprentice because the latter was suffering from consumption, and by the nature of his illness was prevented from regularly attending to his duties. His Honour decided that the employer was not bound to teach the apprentice on his return to duty, since the apprentice had been away for his health's sake from October, 1902, to January, 1905. The circumstances were painful, as the apprentice had lost his premium and had not learnt to be a dentist, but the case was quite exceptional.

SHOPS.

In this report is set forth for the first time statistics concerning shops and shop-assistants. The information was obtained under the provisions of "The Labour Department Act, 1903." A very interesting statement will be found in the tabular sheets of this report, Tables 3 and 4 (Shop Statistics). It shows the number of shops in the colony, classified according to trades, with the number (29,141) of male and female shop-assistants. The wages paid to all shop-assistants during the year were £1,482,373.