

ment, and although hard to enforce, owing to the great difficulty experienced in detecting offenders, it has had the effect of materially checking Chinamen and others who sell such goods from trading after tobacconists are closed. Chinamen were the principal offenders, and three were prosecuted and fined. I would recommend that this amendment be extended to all trades.

I find upon investigation, and from information supplied to me in the course of the carrying-out of my duties as Inspector, that a very large number of shopkeepers in Wellington are strongly in favour of closing—and many do close—their shops on Saturday afternoons in lieu of Wednesday, and the opinion is expressed that, after becoming used to it, little inconvenience would be experienced by the public generally or the shopkeepers in particular. Friday could be made the late night, and by still exempting bakers, fruiterers, &c., from the half-day closing, and also such shops as butchers, Saturdays would, it is considered by some, be found to be just as suitable a day as any other.

The annual returns show that there are 1,185 shops in the city and suburbs, employing 2,609 males and 809 females.

Thorough inspection has been made of all shops where female assistants are employed, and attention has been paid to the sanitation of such shops and the sitting-accommodation provided for female workers.

There were 24 convictions during the year, and 2 cases were dismissed (see "Legal Decisions").

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICES ACT.

No trouble has been experienced in enforcing this Act. There were 13 licenses issued during the year, the offices in every case being well conducted. I find that since the amended scale of fees came into force employees are now being charged the full fee, and in most instances the employers are not being charged at all. Registry-office keepers say that employers would rather advertise for a servant than consult a registry-office keeper who charges a fee for supplying such servant.

I have, &c.,

C. E. ALDRIDGE,

Inspector of Factories.

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Wellington.

SIR,—

Department of Labour, Wellington, 10th April, 1908.

I have the honour to submit, for your information, my report for the year ending the 31st March, 1908, upon the general inspection in Wellington City and Suburbs of the various industrial awards and agreements in force under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

The year has been an exceedingly busy one, as the following digest of the work will plainly show: 656 separate investigations were made as to alleged breaches committed, in addition to original inquiries made by myself. I append a table showing results; and in it are enclosed 73 enforcements which overlapped from the previous year.

TABLE No. 1.—ANALYSIS of INVESTIGATIONS made during year ending 31st March, 1908.

Award, &c.	Enforce- ments.	Interpreta- tions filed.	Cases settled out of Court.	Where no Breach disclosed.	Total Investi- gations made.
Aerated-water workers, &c.	..	..	..	1	1
Bakers	7	2	1	18	28
Bootmakers	2	..	..	1	3
Bricklayers	1	1	2	7	11
Building trades' labourers..	18	..	11	27	56
Butchers	8	..	3	6	17
Carpenters	5	..	5	11	21
Coachworkers	2	..	1	..	3
Cooks and waiters' industrial agree- ment (to 11th November, 1907)	131	..	18	30	179
Cooks and waiters (from 6th January, 1908)	1	1	4	20	26
Drivers	19	..	35	30	84
Farriers, &c.	1	..	..	3	4
Furniture trades	9	1	2	37	49
General labourers	2	2	13	12	29
Grocers	8	..	6	15	29
Letterpress printers and machinists..	3	1	4	9	17
Painters, &c.	4	..	4	15	23
Plasterers	4	..	2	9	15
Plumbers	1	3	2	22	28
Tailoresses	2	1	12	14	29
Tailors	12	1	7	19	39
Timber-yards, &c.	3	1	6	12	22
Tinplate-workers	1	..	1	3	5
Typographical	3	..	2	2	7
Wharf-labourers	3	..	..	1	4
Totals	250	14	141*	324	729†

* A sum of £133 14s. 1d. was recovered and disbursed to payees.
previous year are included in this total.

† Seventy-three cases overlapping from