

trades have been universally dull and depressed. Some ironmasters recommend an increased tariff on imported material, but it is doubtful if such remedy would be efficient or be more than a temporary stimulus. Clothing trades, including dressmaking and millinery, were brisk and healthy; timber cutting and selling in most places languished. On the other hand, flax-milling showed a remarkable recovery and prosperity. Cheese and butter factories worked full time; frozen-meat establishments were very busy; coachbuilding flourished; saddlery and harness-making improved greatly on the position of a few years ago, but the furniture trade was poor. Bootmaking was steady, and is now in full swing.

Of those applying at the Government bureaux for employment, the following persons have received practical assistance from the Labour Department since its formation :—

Year.	Total.	Married.	Single.	Dependents.	Private Work.	Government Work.
1891-92	2,593	1,054	1,539	4,729	1,730	863
1892-93	3,874	1,808	2,066	7,802	2,518	1,356
1893-94	3,341	1,836	1,505	7,942	1,019	2,322
1894-95	3,030	2,007	1,023	8,883	894	2,136
1895-96	2,871	1,880	991	8,424	708	2,163
1896-97	1,718	1,084	634	4,719	652	1,066
1897-98	2,035	1,163	872	4,928	544	1,491
1898-99	2,115	1,178	937	4,759	638	1,477
1899-1900	2,147	1,115	1,032	4,471	486	1,661
1900-1	3,124	1,326	1,798	5,432	519	2,605
1901-2	1,830	713	1,117	2,747	396	1,434
1902-3	3,704	1,492	2,212	5,934	580	3,124
1903-4	2,860	777	2,083	3,085	1,216	1,644
1904-5	3,130	953	2,177	3,425	1,960	1,170
1905-6	6,712	2,027	4,685	7,351	1,929	4,783
1906-7	7,393	1,427	5,966	4,187	2,718	4,675
1907-8	6,305	1,440	4,865	4,408	2,977	3,328
1908-9	10,391	2,538	7,853	7,510	4,190	6,201
1909-10	8,506	2,987	5,519	10,164	5,059	3,447
Totals	77,679	28,805	48,874	110,900	30,733	46,946

It is a source of encouragement to find that during the last few years the numbers of those persons sent to private employers have been steadily growing, and this year the number so despatched has greatly exceeded the number of those sent to Government works. There has been, with the completion of the Main Trunk Railway, a great reduction of labourers on public works, only 3,447 being sent this year, against 6,201 last year. The men assisted during the year included 1,372 from Great Britain, 227 from Australia, and 92 from foreign countries. Eighty wives, with 131 children, were sent by the Department to localities in which their bread-winners were at work. The cost of such passages has been refunded to the State.

LABOUR EXCHANGES, ETC.

The latest developments in connection with the conduct of labour exchanges in other countries are being closely watched, in order to apply them here in New Zealand if considered feasible. In this connection Germany has certainly attained a degree of success over her continental neighbours, and in the new scheme for dealing with the subject of unemployment Great Britain has evidently adopted the German system. It would be both difficult and inadvisable for us here to extend the scope of our employment branches in some of the directions adopted by Europe and America. The purveying of meals at cost-price; the setting-apart of waiting-rooms for all classes, employers and employed; providing literature and amusement for applicants for work whilst waiting selection, appear at present quite unnecessary here, where, even during the slackest seasons, the applicants for employment in any of the cities do not exceed a few hundred per month. The number of registrations effected from day to day in the large towns of Europe and America are quite beyond our experience. In Berlin alone 82,557 persons secured employment through the public bureaux in 1906. During the whole year, and throughout the various towns, chief and secondary, the applications in New Zealand would not equal the numbers applying for work fortnightly in such towns as Berlin, Hamburg, Liverpool, and Philadelphia.

Special attention, however, has been given to the question of quick communication in case of men being required in any particular part of New Zealand. During the past winter, when employment was especially scarce, urgent instructions were issued to the whole of our offices to report by telegram