

There were 66 accidents reported during the year, 2 of which proved fatal, as a result of falls from scaffolds. The following table shows particulars regarding the accidents in the different districts :—

District.	Slight.	Moderate.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
Auckland	26	6	2	1	35
Wellington	9	3	1	1	14
Nelson	2	...	...	...	2
Canterbury	10	...	...	...	10
Otago and Southland	3	2	...	...	5
Totals	50	11	3	2	66

SHOPS AND OFFICES ACT.

There is presented herewith in Table 4 a detailed report of the position of shops, of employers in shops, and of shop-assistants. The following brief table showing the numbers of employers and employees in the different industrial districts will be found of interest :—

Summary.

District.	Number of Persons Engaged.				Total Persons engaged in Shops.	Number of Shops.	Total Wages paid during the Year.
	Employees.		Employers.				
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			
Auckland City	2,052	1,014	1,019	191	4,276	1,222	271,628
Wellington City	1,657	781	1,425	202	4,065	1,538	238,680
Christchurch City	1,572	704	1,060	163	3,499	1,213	215,561
Dunedin City	1,535	692	1,080	220	3,527	1,244	197,856
*Northern District	1,533	629	1,638	155	3,955	1,830	169,670
Taranaki District	512	241	584	40	1,377	596	55,486
*Wellington District	2,358	932	2,233	165	5,688	2,371	289,663
Marlborough District	159	64	153	11	387	151	18,865
Nelson District.. ..	310	157	283	34	784	298	41,356
Westland District	526	195	504	84	1,309	566	62,253
*Canterbury District	957	363	855	82	2,257	933	104,530
* Otago District	555	182	639	65	1,441	680	59,013
{Southland District	725	283	532	64	1,604	582	87,493
Totals	14,451	6,237	12,005	1,476	34,169	13,224	1,812,054

* Excluding Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin Cities, respectively.

The total number of persons engaged in retail distribution by means of shops was 34,169, of whom 26,456 were men and youths, and 7,713 were girls and women. There were 13,481 employers working in their shops, and 20,688 shop-assistants. Fifty more persons are included in the returns for this year (as working in shops) than last year, but as there are 535 more shops scheduled, many small establishments appear to have been opened, and to have drawn on the shop-assistants in the large businesses.

Auckland City (£271,628) pays the largest wages-bill to shop-assistants; Wellington City next with £238,680; then Christchurch City, £215,561; then Dunedin City, £197,856. If the cities with their surrounding industrial districts are compared, we find that the order of precedence is as follows: Wellington, £528,343; Auckland, £441,298; Otago and Southland, £344,362; Canterbury, £320,091. This probably arises through the presence of considerable-sized towns (Wanganui, Napier, Palmerston, Masterton, &c.) in the Wellington Industrial District; Dunedin also has a large surrounding district in Otago and Southland.