

to many of our leading manufacturing industries. I find in regard to the cities the returns show that in Auckland, out of 2,119 employees compared, 782 receive the minimum rate and 1,337 in excess, equal to 63 per cent. In Wellington 1,513 employees have been compared, 535 of whom receive the minimum rate and 978 in excess of the minimum, or 64 per cent. In Christchurch 2,367 have been compared, 869 of whom receive the minimum rate and 1,498 in excess of minimum, or 63 per cent. In Dunedin 1,375 employees have been compared, of whom 599 receive the minimum and 776 in excess of the minimum, or 56½ per cent.

Industrial Union Registrations.

The returns of industrial unions are (by statute) to be computed for the complete year, and therefore do not cover the financial year on which the rest of this report is based. The industrial-union year is from the 1st January to the 31st December. The roll of members of industrial unions during the last six years appears as follows :—

					Unions of Employers.		Unions of Workers.	
					Number of Unions.	Number of Members.	Number of Unions.	Number of Members.
December, 1904					109	3,292	273	30,271
„ 1905					113	3,276	261	29,869
„ 1906					109	3,337	274	34,978
„ 1907					121	3,630	310	45,614
„ 1908					122	3,918	325	49,347
„ 1909					120	3,702	308	54,519

The workers' unions have gained by 17 unions, although the number of 308 as enumerated is less than the 325 of last year. This arises through the branches of the Associated Society of Railway Servants now being merged into one union. The roll of membership of industrial unions of workers was increased by 5,172, and shows during the last five years an increase of over 24,000 persons. There was a decrease of two employers' unions and of 216 members.

In the following table the unionists are shown in trade groups, with their respective percentages of increase during the period of six years from 1903 to 1909. The membership of building-trades unions, which last year was 7,622, has suffered a reduction of 1,370, whilst there are decreases in membership since last year in mining of 94, in printing of 22, in transport of 292. Notwithstanding these decreases, probably due to temporary depression in the trades, it will be noticed that the membership of all unions has increased by 97·2 per cent. in the six years :—

Trade.	1903.	1909.	Increase per Cent.
Agriculture	1,235	3,454	179·6
Building	3,717	6,252	68·1
Clothing and textile	3,158	4,319	36·7
Engineering and shipbuilding	1,441	3,059	112·2
Food	2,297	6,473	181·8
Mining	4,145	5,093	22·8
Printing	708	1,151	62·4
Transport	7,749	16,246	109·6
Other trades	3,190	8,472	165·5
Totals	27,640	54,519	..
Increase of unionists	..	26,879	97·2

The business under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908, during the year ending the 31st March, 1910, is summarised in the following table :—

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