

REPORT.

The SECRETARY, Department of Labour, to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LABOUR.

SIR,—

Department of Labour, Wellington, 24th May, 1911.

I have the honour to present herewith the twentieth annual report of this Department for transmission to His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 68 of the Factories Act, 1908, and section 12 of the Labour Department and Labour Day Act, 1908. The report covers the late financial year—viz. from the 1st April, 1910, to the 31st March, 1911.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. J. A. Millar, Minister of Labour.

JOHN LOMAS, Secretary.

IN submitting this, my first report, I have pleasure in saying that the promise of a better year as far as unemployment was concerned was more than fulfilled during the year. The signs of better times were evident when the last report of the Department was published, and the winter of 1910 passed over without any marked pressure from callers for work. Skilled tradesmen, with the sole exception of those engaged in iron-working pursuits, were generally able to get full employment during the winter, and, as the summer season approached, all classes of workmen, skilled and unskilled, found ready employment. At times there was, in fact, a shortage of hands in the building trades, but no very serious inconvenience was caused to employers, although several large contracts were delayed somewhat in their completion owing to the dearth of labour. Plumbers and painters seem to have had a specially good year throughout the Dominion, and no difficulty has been experienced in placing all applying at the Department's offices.

The total number of men assisted for the year was 7,102, or 1,404 less than last year. Of this number, 2,181 were married, and 4,921 single men and widowers. Of the total, 4,251 were sent or assisted to private employment, and 2,851 to Government works.

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
1910-11	7,102	2,181	4,921	8,454	4,251	2,851
Totals	84,781	30,986	53,795	119,354	34,984	49,797