

Now that the ground has been so thoroughly covered, it would be wise, I suggest, to make a somewhat similar inquiry at regular intervals—say, at intervals of two years—to ascertain if the shortages still obtain. It is only by keeping in close and constant touch with manufacturers that the true state of affairs can be gauged.

In respect to the work of the Department's employment branches, the following have received practical assistance since the Department's formation:—

Year.	Total.	Married.	Single.	Dependants.	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
1911-12	5,735	1,407	4,328	4,233	3,450	2,285
1912-13	5,848	1,639	4,209	5,122	3,705	2,143
Totals	96,364	34,032	62,332	128,709	42,139	54,225

The total number of men assisted by the Department during the year shows an increase over 1911-12; in that year 5,735 were assisted or sent to employment, as against 5,848 in 1912-13 (increase 113). Of the number assisted in 1912-13, 1,639 were married and 4,209 were single men and widowers. Of the total, 3,705 were sent to or given assistance to private employment, and 2,143 were sent to Government works.

During the early spring and summer a steady demand set in for farm workers. The demand continued right up to the end of the year under review. The number of hands required was not available, and the Department found the utmost difficulty in getting labour for farmers, especially for the dairy-farmers in the Taranaki District. A distinct shortage of men was experienced also in the cheese-factories, the vacancies took some time to fill. A total of 719 farm hands was assisted to employment by the Department. The great majority of these hailed from overseas, and, beyond having a physical capacity and desire for such work, were not specially experienced or trained in farm-work. Farmers find the immigrants, as a general rule, to be adaptable and capable, and those possessing a real desire to learn the work turn out very satisfactory workmen.

There is one feature in regard to the assistance afforded to men by the Department which is deserving of special mention. The sum of £2,100 was voted by Parliament last year for the purpose of assisting men by means of advancing their fares to both Government and private employment. Of this vote £1,921 was expended, and £1,842 has been recovered from the men, representing 96 per cent. of the amount advanced. In the previous year the percentage was 94·6. The result for 1912-13 constitutes a record, and I am doubtful whether any other Labour Department can show such a result.

FACTORIES ACT.

In last year's report it was stated that a separate appendix to the report embodying a new system of industrial statistics was under preparation. So far as each district is concerned this appendix was duly completed and issued early this year as Table I, and attached to this year's report will be a further appendix showing the result (for the same year) as for the whole of New Zealand (Tables II and III). Table II will show the results divided into the various industries (for example, the workers engaged in, say, the meat-freezing industry generally throughout New