

Clothing and Millinery Industries

Output: 1935, 17,302,885; 1936, 17,811,191. Employees: 1935, 1,410; 1936, 1,400. The above shows an increase in both value of output and number of persons engaged. Since March, 1936, and particularly since the beginning of 1937, a very dull period has been experienced, there being a strong tendency on the part of the public to practice economies where this class of manufacture is concerned. Consequently forms a very minor portion of this group.

Clothing

Output: 1935, 12,336,461; 1936, 12,315,380. Employees: 1935, 6,552; 1936, 6,522. The number of employees engaged in this industry makes it rank high in importance especially as one that provides work for a very large number of females. It is satisfactorily indicated to have that for the year ended the 31st March, 1936, an increase in output and employment is recorded. Unfortunately the reduced purchasing-power of the community has recently reflected itself in a decided fall in the clothing industry output, a number of which are now only running part time. There are hopes that in the coming spring business will again increase.

Chemical Industries

Output: 1935, 17,001,189; 1936, 17,110,684. Employees: 1935, 558; 1936, 566. This industry, which is largely made up of the manufacture of superphosphates, is expanding rapidly, and even since the above returns were prepared a new works commenced operations at Wanganui in September last. The British works at Dunedin are about to be extended. The greatly reduced price of superphosphates in the North has had the effect of creating a huge demand with consequent increase in output.

Food, Publishing, and Bookbinding

Output: 1935, 14,052,345; 1936, 14,366,480. Employees: 1935, 6,779; 1936, 7,323. It will be readily seen from the above that the industry continues to grow rapidly. It is an industry which gives a great deal of employment, and it is one of the most important to the community. The industry is expanding, and the output is increasing. The industry is one of the most important to the community, and it is one of the most rapidly growing.

Woolen-mills

Output: 1935, 11,352,743; 1936, 11,150,771. Employees: 1935, 2,341; 1936, 2,326. The figures quoted show a decline in the activities of this industry. Some mills are still running short time, but there has been a slight improvement since the above returns were compiled. Inputs of woollen goods have fallen off to some extent during the present year, and this has created a better demand for the local article.

These figures are for the year ended 31st March, 1936, and are based on the returns received from the various industries.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKIRRE, Government Printer, Wellington.—1937.

Price 10s.