

Agricultural and Dairy Machinery and Implement Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Establishments (number)	28	25	25
Employees (number)	1,040	885	779
Wages paid	£220,482	£191,002	£168,483
Value of output	£716,672	£607,339	£610,136
Value added by manufacture ..	£366,889	£311,614	£320,848

It will be noted from the above figures that the number of employees engaged in the industry has decreased by 106, with a reduction in wages of £23,000; the value of output has increased by £3,000, and the value added by manufacture by £9,000. Reports from the South Island show that the industry as a whole has improved during the past twelve months. Employees have been engaged on full time, and prospects for the ensuing year are good.

The following table shows the extent of the importation of machinery competitive with similar classes made in the Dominion. The total value of all agricultural machinery imported in 1926 was £176,317; 1927, £183,163; 1928, £182,569. The total value of dairying machinery imported in each of these three years was as follows: 1926, £140,951; 1927, £109,552; 1928, £153,192.

IMPORTS (CALENDAR YEARS).

	1926.		1927.		1928.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Agricultural machinery—		£		£		£
Cultivators	121	1,442	541	7,102	1,282	7,667
Drills and sowers	662	9,211	1,233	17,629	336	6,309
Harrows, disc	329	5,028	621	8,102	296	3,219
Ploughs	1,205	17,363	848	9,419	876	9,262
Presses—wool, hay, and straw ..	22	1,287	32	2,045	20	1,733
Dairying machinery—						
Churns	2,610	8,944	2,158	5,189	2,447	3,467

Woollen-manufacturing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Establishments (number)	12	12	12
Employees (number)	2,326	2,380	2,451
Wages paid	£362,020	£369,323	£381,561
Value of output	£1,159,771	£1,053,306	£1,209,150
Value added by manufacture ..	£552,694	£550,169	£627,305
Imports, calendar years :—			
Woollen piece-goods (pure or containing wool)	£813,537	£787,986	£785,593

Woollen-mills in the Otago District report a much better tone in the industry. One factory states business is brisk, necessitating addition to factory buildings and plant, while another factory in the same district reports that there has been a considerable increase in business compared with the previous year. In spite of the increased use of art silk, wool still remains at a price which is not only profitable to the grower, but also to the manufacturer. With wool-prices stabilized at to-day's figures, prospects for the coming year are decidedly hopeful. In the Auckland District manufacturers report business as quiet, and in some factories difficulty is experienced in keeping staffs fully employed. In other centres it is reported that competition is keen, in view of the fact that there is not sufficient demand to keep the factories employed at full working-capacity.

Printing and Publishing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Establishments (number)	325	344	346
Employees (number)	7,274	7,874	8,053
Wages paid	£1,632,797	£1,752,291	£1,805,690
Value of output	£4,407,655	£4,527,696	£4,411,052
Value added by manufacture ..	£3,328,674	£3,421,672	£3,276,179

This industry shows a slight falling-off compared with the previous years, but it is difficult to report whether the slight decrease is due to slackness in printing establishments or newspaper offices, which latter are also included in the above figures. From the various centres, however, printing establishments report a general improvement in the business tone. The Auckland District goes so far as to state that the outlook is better than it has been for the past two years.