

It has been stated by many industrialists that the loss in working-time of factories on Saturdays will not result in a proportionate loss in production, as that morning is not regarded as being a period during which production equals that of the rest of the week. In some industries there will also be a saving in the cost of starting and operating machinery and plant used only for four hours' operation. A number of industries will be immediately affected by increased purchasing-power of a large number of workers, which will bring additional turnover during the transitional stage, thus compensating in some degree for increased labour costs.

Many manufacturers are already striving to evolve ways and means of further improving productive efficiency, and it is considered that there is scope for definite savings to be made. The Department is assisting industry in every instance where it is found possible to reorganize, with the object of stabilization at a new level of production. Where the effect of the new industrial legislation is proving adverse to our manufacturing industries, investigations are being made to ascertain ways and means of assisting local factories to meet overseas competition.

TIMBER.

The production of the main varieties of timber in the Dominion for the past ten years (ending 31st March) is given in the following table :—

Year ended 31st March,	Total.	Kauri.	Rimu.	White-pine.	Matai.	Totara.	Others.
	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.
1926 ..	353,224,196	22,765,877	195,451,758	75,634,869	26,141,027	14,109,576	19,121,089
1927 ..	305,675,258	18,474,981	170,498,282	65,490,059	19,380,469	14,179,462	17,652,005
1928 ..	269,783,000	15,874,000	156,314,000	53,736,000	15,207,000	15,728,000	17,924,000
1929 ..	270,214,420	10,742,967	156,239,992	56,790,306	15,752,744	8,610,639	22,077,772
1930 ..	282,405,173	10,471,297	163,293,288	58,505,364	17,972,243	9,046,159	23,116,822
1931 ..	229,468,022	8,943,480	124,998,825	49,009,109	13,917,187	9,467,697	23,131,724
1932 ..	154,192,510	6,891,352	71,082,074	43,161,299	7,474,867	5,344,100	20,238,818
1933 ..	166,269,410	5,410,390	76,192,513	47,997,700	8,160,873	6,346,942	22,160,992
1934 ..	197,654,900	4,945,843	96,125,000	47,949,396	10,759,556	7,197,389	30,677,716
1935 ..	243,781,675	5,552,602	125,488,165	52,294,065	13,879,628	8,867,383	37,699,832

Included in the table above under other species not specified are *Pinus insignis* and beech. The production of these species for the past five years is as under :—

				<i>Pinus Insignis.</i> Sup. ft.	Beech. Sup. ft.
1931	..	..	..	.. 12,739,925	7,680,913
1932	..	..	..	.. 13,404,700	5,756,868
1933	..	..	..	.. 14,676,010	5,781,441
1934	..	..	..	.. 21,494,382	6,972,717
1935	..	..	..	.. 25,921,766	7,725,198

The above statistics show that the production of timber increased by approximately 46,100,000 superficial feet during the 1934–35 period, an increase of 18·1 per cent. Incidentally, this was the highest production recorded since 1929–30.

Employment figures show a substantial increase in the number of workers engaged in sawmills. The following figures illustrate this increase during the past four years: 1931–32, 4,591; 1932–33, 4,787; 1933–34, 5,323; 1934–35, 6,325.

EXPORTS.

For the twelve months ended the 31st December, 1935, there was an increase in exports of timber of 5,056,142 superficial feet and of £43,886 in value in comparison with the figures for the previous year. The relative figures for the two periods are shown in the table below :—

	1934.		1935.	
	Sup. ft.	Value.	Sup. ft.	Value.
White-pine	22,791,352	£(N.Z.) 213,287	22,708,732	214,243
Rimu	7,150,514	51,472	9,009,572	69,820
Beech	2,410,208	25,409	2,766,023	29,350
Kauri	677,644	18,424	626,521	18,044
<i>Pinus insignis</i>	712,205	5,618	1,606,846	9,660
Other kinds	..	..	..	..
Total	34,528,683	320,465	39,584,825	364,351