

Furniture and Cabinet Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		285	308	338
Employees (number)		1,874	2,262	2,807
Salaries and wages paid		£285,081	£376,261	£528,567
Value of output		£773,810	£1,029,948	£1,380,492
Value added by manufacture		£414,012	£539,765	£731,251

In Wellington, trade was considerably better than that in previous years. Other centres report that at the commencement of the year conditions were good, but towards the end of the period business slackened somewhat. Over the whole of the year turnovers showed some increase.

Ham and Bacon Factories.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		43	49	52
Employees (number)		395	450	506
Salaries and wages paid		£79,993	£92,444	£112,014
Value of output		£805,113	£918,500	£1,183,507
Value added by manufacture		£228,608	£281,963	£294,519

Conditions have been good, in some cases excellent, with increased turnovers generally prevailing. Employment has been maintained, and in certain instances, owing to the seasonal nature of the trade, skilled men have been difficult to procure. Prospects are favourable.

Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, and Pottery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		54	58	62
Employees (number)		618	777	772
Salaries and wages paid		£111,988	£142,242	£190,038
Value of output		£285,164	£347,562	£429,891
Value added by manufacture		£264,729	£320,554	£394,311

The continued activity in the building and allied industries has permitted steady conditions in the brick and tile industry, and the year's trade should compare reasonably well with that for the previous year. In the South the concrete-pipe industry has continued to improve, following upon the elimination of certain difficulties which had been experienced previously. The manufacture of pottery, which is a relatively small branch of the above industry, has not disclosed any marked improvement, and sales have been difficult.

Flaxmilling.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		21	29	32
Employees (number)		316	506	540
Salaries and wages paid		£42,160	£69,367	£92,202
Value of output		£80,711	£138,336	£179,323
Value added by manufacture		£68,911	£118,430	£160,656

Conditions obtaining in the flaxmilling industry are referred to in an earlier section of this report.

Rope and Twine Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		6	8	7
Employees (number)		228	243	243
Salaries and wages paid		£36,052	£39,747	£44,118
Value of output		£128,506	£159,925	£180,796
Value added by manufacture		£69,668	£87,362	£91,214

Reports indicate that business during the past year in relation to rope and twine was fair, with normal employment prevailing in this section of the industry. The output of shop twines and soft fibre goods appears to have shown some increase, but some recession is noticeable in binder-twines.

Clothing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—		1935.	1936.	1937.
Establishments (number)		290	318	336
Employees (number)		9,394	10,296	11,828
Salaries and wages paid		£952,844	£1,025,510	£1,322,388
Value of output		£2,958,508	£3,090,027	£3,663,107
Value added by manufacture		£1,391,877	£1,508,550	£1,823,727
Imports, calendar years : Apparel and ready-made clothing		£1,101,887	£1,261,804	£1,814,116

During the early part of the year the conditions of the industry were considered good and increased sales were the general result of better spending-power, with some increase in the demand for better-quality goods. Later on it was ascertained that orders placed overseas earlier in the year