

For the last three years the overtime worked in the chief cities is shown in the following table :—

City.	Year.	Women and Boys.	Hours.	Men.	Hours.
Auckland...	1905-6	1,685	46,046	563	43,263
" ...	1906-7	2,025	54,108	468	36,036
" ...	1907-8	2,426	64,478	1,499	59,272
Wellington	1905-6	1,614	37,146	952	63,614
" ...	1906-7	1,828	52,670	2,189	123,129
" ...	1907-8	2,391	54,362	2,837	134,360
Christchurch	1905-6	2,405	60,681	1,622	64,059
" ...	1906-7	2,933	100,474	841	63,975
" ...	1907-8	2,903	83,955	1,444	80,368
Dunedin ...	1905-6	1,198	37,080	785	104,071
" ...	1906-7	1,877	54,829	940	107,565
" ...	1907-8	1,772	61,419	1,871	194,804

For the last year (up to 31st March, 1908) the overtime worked in each centre is as follows :—

City.	Women and Boys.	Hours.	Men.	Hours.
Auckland	2,426	64,478	1,499	59,272
Wellington	2,391	54,362	2,837	134,360
Christchurch	2,903	83,955	1,444	80,368
Dunedin	1,772	61,419	1,871	194,804
	9,492	264,214	7,651	468,804

#### ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES.

Five hundred and seventy-seven accidents occurred in factories during the last year. Most of these were of small importance, a few were severe, and six were fatal. It is a matter for congratulation that such accidents show a notable decrease in number and character. Against 679 accidents of the previous year we now record 583, and against sixteen fatal accidents less than half that number. Among 135 persons working in factories, but one accident is now annually averaged (or 0·74 per cent.), and there is one fatal accident among every 13,104 people (or 0·0076 per cent.). This is a very fine position of security for New Zealand industries to occupy, and it is creditable to the watchfulness of employers, of Inspectors, and of the workers themselves.

#### BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES ACT.

One hundred and fifty-six convictions under the Factories Act were recorded by the departmental officers during the period under review. As a general rule, there was very little friction indeed between the employers and those at work under them. Reports from Inspectors of Factories everywhere confirm the idea that the provisions of the present Act are appreciated, and, except in the large towns, long intervals elapse without any necessity for interference with the general conduct of industrial business. The cases of interest are mainly as follows :—

A draper was fined £1 and costs for exposing for sale garments made in an unregistered workroom, without attaching to them a label setting forth the fact. Defendant had let out work to a woman, who was paid 7½d. for making a shirt, and who had to find the buttons and cotton. The Magistrate said that it looked like the thin edge of sweating, and future cases would be severely dealt with.

Another firm was fined £5 and costs for a similar breach in giving out kapoc-mattress work. Owing to an alleged misunderstanding, a new hearing was granted, but the case was again decided in the Department's favour. The fine was then increased to £5 ls., to allow of an appeal being made, notice of which was given but not proceeded with.

A tailor was awarded £6 15s. damages, with costs, against a machinist who left his employment without notice in the busy season.

Two Chinese laundry-keepers were charged with failing to keep a record of their employees, and the wages paid, also the ages of all employees under twenty-one years. The defence was that such a register was kept in Chinese. On promise to keep a proper record in future, a fine of 10s. and costs was imposed in each case.