

Accidents in Factories.

—				Slight.	Moderate.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
1910-11	..	..	..	638	145	77	12	872
1911-12	..	..	..	792	167	50	11	1,020
1912-13	..	..	..	837	84	32	8	961
1913-14	..	..	..	879	165	52	8	1,104
1914-15	..	..	..	747	171	46	3	967
1915-16	..	..	..	837	160	65	3	1,065

The number of fatal accidents reported was three, the same as last year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES ACT.

There were 264 prosecutions during the year. Convictions were obtained in 257 of the cases.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT.

It might have been anticipated that the number of alleged breaches of awards and agreements reported to the Department would during the war be less than usual, but such has not been the case, and Inspectors of Awards have been kept busily engaged on this work.

The number of disputes filed for investigation by Conciliation Councils and the Arbitration Court has also not shown a decrease, and there is a prospect of the work of the forthcoming year being plentiful.

The business dealt with by Councils of Conciliation, Court of Arbitration, &c., under the Act during the year is summarized as follows:—

Industrial agreements	...	...	...	...	21*
Recommendations of Councils of Conciliation	...	...	...	...	134
Awards of Arbitration Court	...	...	...	...	102
Magistrates' Courts—					
Enforcements of awards, &c.—					
Conducted by Department	...	...	...	...	280
Conducted by unions	...	...	...	...	5

The awards and agreements actually in force as at the 31st March last totalled 488.

The following table shows the work performed by Commissioners and Councils of Conciliation during the year:—

—	Industrial Districts.			Totals.
	Northern and Taranaki.	Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland.	Canterbury, and Otago and Southland.	
	(Commissioner Harle Giles.)	(Commissioner Hally.)	(Commissioner Triggs.)	
Number of industrial agreements arrived at—				
Through Councils	..	2	2	4
Through Commissioners	3	7	1	11
Number of recommendations fully accepted and forwarded to Court to be made into awards	22	34	32	88
Number of recommendations substantially accepted and forwarded to Court to be made into awards	14	16	1	31
Number of disputes in which no recommendation was made	22	9	12	43
Totals	61	68	48	177

The above table shows that out of 177 disputes dealt with by them, 134 (or 75 per cent.) were settled or substantially settled by the Commissioners and Councils of Conciliation.

Registration of Industrial Unions and Associations.

During the year thirty-six industrial unions and associations were registered—viz., workers' unions, 23; employers' unions, 6; workers' associations (of unions), 4; and employers' associations (of unions), 3.

The usual annual return (to the 31st December, 1915) of the unions registered under the Act, with their membership at that date, is published separately in parliamentary paper H.—11A, as required by the Act. For convenience of reference this will be bound with this report as Appendix H.—11A.

Unions of employers show a decrease of eight with a membership decrease of 101 as compared with last year, while the number of workers' unions has decreased by fourteen, and the total membership of same has decreased by 6,330. This decrease is due partly to the war, and partly

* Fifteen of these agreements were arrived at through the medium of Conciliation Councils and Commissioners.