

1920.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

(REPORT OF THE).

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.*

## REPORT.

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The SECRETARY, Department of Labour, to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LABOUR.

SIR,—

Department of Labour, Wellington, 30th June, 1920.

I have the honour to present herewith the twenty-ninth annual report of this Department, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General, and to be laid before Parliament, in compliance with the Labour Department and Labour Day Act, 1908, and the Factories Act, 1908. The report covers the financial year 1st April, 1919, to 31st March, 1920.

Owing to the acute shortage of paper and to the pressure of important work, the report has been made as brief as possible

I have, &c.,

F. W. ROWLEY,

Secretary of Labour.

The Hon. the Minister of Labour.

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### CONDITIONS OF TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

The reports from branches generally indicate that almost without exception the demand for labour has exceeded the supply. A return compiled in November last from information obtained from the occupiers of factories in the various trades, in fact, revealed a considerable shortage of labour in many of the Dominion's manufacturing industries, and that quite a number of machines have been idle—viz., woollen-milling, clothing and boot manufacturing (all branches), motor and general engineering, the various building trades, sawmilling, furniture-making, and fruit and confectionery-making.

*Men's Employment Bureau.*—Number of engagements, 4,205, with 2,709 dependants; 1,638 were sent to private employment and 2,567 to Government works.

*Women's Employment Bureau.*—Number of engagements: Auckland, 401; Wellington, 421; Christchurch, 303; Dunedin, 242; Nelson, 39; total, 1,406. The number is 146 less than for the previous twelve months, which in turn showed a decrease of 140 on the preceding year's figures.

During the year two ladies representing the Imperial Government visited the Dominion for the purpose of making inquiries as to the opportunities for women workers here—particularly war workers who have had experience as institutional cooks, housekeepers, &c. Every assistance was given them, and it is hoped that before long a considerable number of domestic workers will come to New Zealand. Seeing, however, that there is also an acute shortage of these workers in England and elsewhere, it would be well if those persons in the Dominion that need assistance in their domestic work would look to the possibilities of overcoming the difficulty by the establishment of communal kitchens and laundries, and by introducing into their houses every possible labour-saving device. This has been urged, and some examples relating to these matters have been given in the Department's last two annual reports. I understand that it is now proposed to establish a communal kitchen in Dunedin.