

1922.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

(REPORT OF THE).

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

REPORT.

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

SIR,—

Department of Labour, Wellington, 15th May, 1922.

I have the honour to present herewith the thirty-first 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 Act, 1908, and the Factories Act, 1921–22. The report covers the financial year 1st April, 1921, to 31st March, 1922.

In accordance with instructions, the report has again been made as brief as possible.

I have, &c.,

F. W. ROWLEY,
Secretary of Labour.

The Hon. the Minister of Labour.

CONDITIONS OF TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT.

In common with other countries, the somewhat depressed condition of trade reported in my previous report has continued throughout the current year, and the number of unemployed as disclosed by the applications filed with the various employment bureaux of this Department has been in the neighbourhood of eleven hundred practically throughout the year. The Department's organization throughout the Dominion has again been utilized in receiving applications for work and in placing men in suitable positions where available. The special relief works set up by the Government in different districts have been continued, and, while many men have for various reasons refused this employment, it is believed that practically every case of real distress has been met by the offer of relief work, which is fixed at 12s. a day for married men and 10s. a day for single men.

Total number of engagements at Department's employment bureaux, 4,989 (previous year, 3,364), with 4,719 dependants—private employment, 2,833; Government works, 2,156.

FACTORIES ACT.

Year.	Number of Factories registered.	Movement.	Number of Factory Workers.	Movement.
1913–14 (before the war) ..	13,469	94 (increase)	87,517	919 (increase).
1914–15	13,937	468 „	88,812	1,295 „
1915–16 (since the war began) ..	13,214	723 (decrease)	83,011	5,801 (decrease).
1916–17	12,455	759 „	78,188	4,823 „
1917–18	12,485	30 (increase)	79,653	1,465 (increase).
1918–19	12,444	41 (decrease)	82,783	3,130 „
1919–20 (after the war) ..	13,490	1,046 (increase)	85,591	2,808 „
1920–21	13,661	171 „	96,603	11,012 „
1921–22	14,013	352 „	96,980	377 „

It will be noticed that, notwithstanding the trade depression, both the number of factories and the number of workers employed have again slightly increased. There are now a greater number of factories and a greater number of factory workers than have ever previously been reported, the drop during the war years having been fully recovered. As explained last year, the large increase of 11,012 shown in the 1920–21 returns was due to the “absorption” of our men from the war.