

APPENDIX A.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Fruit-preserving and Jam-making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1925.	1926.	1927.
Establishments (number)	7	7	8
Employees (number)	299	247	260
Wages paid	£47,928	£44,625	£45,814
Value of output	£239,742	£234,775	£273,436
Value added by manufacture	£84,792	£83,720	£107,359
Imports, calendar years :—			
Jams and preserves (including preserved ginger)	£24,796	£27,738	£23,250
Fruits bottled and preserved in syrup—			
Apricot	£21,217	£23,352	£31,882
Peaches	£59,553	£45,989	£48,645
Pears	£10,604	£9,467	£6,987
Fruit-pulp n.e.i.	£4,604	£4,501	£5,660
Total	£120,774	£111,047	£116,424

It will be readily seen from the above tables that the fruit preserving and canning industry has fluctuated to some extent during the past three years. It is a comparatively small industry, but the imports indicate that there are possibilities of appreciable expansion. Recent heavy imports of dried fruits, jams, and preserves from South Africa are said to be competing severely with local products.

A firm in Otago has recently commenced the manufacture of preserved ginger.

Lime and Cement.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1925.	1926.	1927.
Establishments (number)	28	26	26
Employees (number)	939	851	899
Wages paid	£214,109	£207,282	£216,969
Value of output	£965,997	£904,955	£925,003
Value added by manufacture	£732,338	£684,551	£687,266
Imports, calendar years :—			
Cement, building (cwt.)	62,967	49,801	82,846
Value	£12,464	£9,969	£15,591

This industry has practically secured the whole of the local business, but there appears to be a tendency for imports of cement to increase at falling prices.

The demand for cement is increasing consistently, and some of the New Zealand works are being extended and methods of production improved. Business in the industry is generally regarded as satisfactory.

Engineering.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1925.	1926.	1927.
Establishments (number)	177	196	214
Employees (number)	3,509	3,807	3,778
Wages paid	£702,662	£802,707	£786,161
Value of output	£1,846,218	£1,993,911	£1,847,662
Value added by manufacture	£1,163,840	£1,282,314	£1,207,999

This industry has, in general, been passing through a period of depression, though some branches report reasonably favourable trade conditions. The change over from steam plants to gas, oil, and electric-power units has tended to divert a great deal of business overseas. Apart from new work, business in the way of overhauls, repairs, and renewals is being lost as steam boilers and steam engines continue to go out of use. The demand for heavy mining machinery has also fallen off during recent years, and one firm engaged in this line that employed eighty hands a year ago is now giving work to only half that number.

Ships' repairs and the construction of small craft has been extremely quiet in recent months. Many foundries, brass and iron, have experienced great difficulty in retaining their employees. As a matter of fact, numbers have been discharged, while others can only be engaged part time. Recently there has been a slight improvement. It has been reported that the increase in the tariff of 5 per cent. on certain brass goods is beginning to have a beneficial effect. Prices of New Zealand-made brassware have been reduced 10 per cent., and for some items more than this. The anticipated increased demand