

fertilizers and the additional production of butterfat, particularly in the North Island, were both conducive to a greater demand for implements, and for milking-machines and separators. Sales of machinery to butter and cheese factories did not increase to any extent.

In the South Island cereal-crop-machinery manufacturers have experienced extraordinarily keen competition from American implement-makers, whose selling and finance methods are extremely difficult for New Zealand manufacturers to compete with. There are, nevertheless, very hopeful reports from the leaders of these industries in the South as well as in the North Island, and it is expected that as a result of the generally improved financial state of the Dominion and the extra protection afforded by the new tariff conditions will take a decided turn for the better.

There appears to be ample room for extension in these industries, as various classes of machinery made in the Dominion are still being imported on a large scale.

The following table shows the extent of the importation of machinery competitive with similar classes made in the Dominion :—

Imports (Calendar Years).

	1925.		1926.		1927.	
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
Agricultural machinery—		£		£		£
Cultivators, spring tine ..	384	5,777	121	1,442	541	7,102
Drills and sowers	810	11,133	662	9,211	1,233	17,629
Harrows, disk	555	7,028	329	5,028	621	8,102
Ploughs	1,080	10,726	1,205	17,363	848	9,419
Presses—wool, hay, and straw ..	8	713	22	1,287	32	2,045
Dairying machinery—						
Churns	2,777	3,380	2,610	8,944	2,158	5,189

The total value of all agricultural machinery imported in 1925 was £196,090 ; in 1926, £176,317 ; in 1927, £183,163. The total value of dairying machinery imported in each of those three years was as follows : 1925, £157,044 ; 1926, £140,951 ; 1927, £109,552. The reduction in value does not represent a corresponding reduction in quantity of imports, as the prices of this class of machinery have been falling.

Woollen-manufacturing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1925.	1926.	1927.
Establishments (number)	13	12	12
Employees (number)	2,381	2,326	2,380
Wages paid	£381,886	£362,020	£369,323
Value of output	£1,263,743	£1,159,771	£1,053,306
Value added by manufacture ..	£581,137	£552,694	£550,169
Imports, calendar years :—			
Woollen piece - goods (pure or containing wool)	£879,434	£813,537	£787,986

The reports from some mills are distinctly encouraging, and in one district a marked improvement in trade has been noted since July, 1927, resulting in an increase in the number of employees. In other districts it has been difficult to maintain output in face of overseas competition, which is, however, more particularly keen in the cheaper grades of cloth.

Union textiles of wool and cotton, and cloth of remade wool, can be manufactured in the United Kingdom at low cost, and such goods, both in the piece and as made-up clothing, come into strong competition with local productions of pure wool.

The high prices of wool which have prevailed during the past year are a disturbing factor in this industry, and manufacturers recognize a danger of appreciable loss when values decline.

Printing and Publishing.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—	1925.	1926.	1927.
Establishments (number)	310	325	344
Employees (number)	6,779	7,274	7,874
Wages paid	£1,501,662	£1,632,797	£1,752,291
Value of output	£4,052,545	£4,407,655	£4,527,696
Value added by manufacture ..	£3,027,140	£3,328,674	£3,421,672

This industry continues to grow fairly rapidly and consistently, and it gives a considerable amount of employment at good wages. Unfortunately, newspaper-work cannot be separated in the figures from ordinary printing-work, and this to a very great extent reduces the value of the statistics.