

slipping or stumbling (p. 34). In connection with inland navigation, 2,606 (1,938) accidents were notified. Here also about one-third were cases of crushing, etc., and one-sixth were due to slips and stumbles; there were 22 cases of drowning (5 through the bursting of a sluice in a storm) (pp. 53-54). There was a case of gassing in inland navigation, similar to that noted for dock work in 1922, caused by the inadequately exhausted fumes from an engine (p. 54).

Industrial Inspection in Tasmania in 1923-1924¹

The Industrial Department of Tasmania was responsible in 1923-1924, as in previous years², for administering the labour laws of the State and for conducting two employment exchanges with various branch agencies (p. 3). Its report for the year is purely statistical, no review of trade conditions being given. There was again an increase in the number of factories on the register, which amounted to 1,123 at the end of June 1924 (1,178 at the end of 1923), compared with 1,105 in the preceding year. In addition, 453 small shops were registered (p. 23). The factories employed altogether 10,275 persons, as against 10,279 in 1923. The returns of establishments and employees are classified in 63 industrial groups, the employees in each group being further classified by sex and age — each year from 14 to 20 and a single group for those of 21 years of age and over (pp. 4-6). Of the total number of employees, 8,069 were males and 2,206 females. The largest group was that of trades connected with food and drink, which employed 2,353 persons in addition to 253 working employers (p. 6).

The report also includes tables of the factories registered during the first six months of 1924, showing the number of establishments, the amount of registration fees, the numbers of working employers and employees of each sex, and the nature and horsepower of the motive force used, in each municipality (p. 7) and in each trade group (p. 8). A further table shows the number of factories of various sizes in each trade group during the same period; only 9 employed more than 100 persons, and 605 employed less than four persons (p. 10).

Orders were issued for the remedying of defects in factories in 269 cases, compared with 245 in 1922-1923. The largest groups of orders related to the provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation, and most of the remainder dealt with the cleanliness and white-washing of premises (p. 12).

As usual, full returns are given of the wages paid and hours worked by various grades in each industry (pp. 13-19). The 48-hour week was most frequent, but a good many trades had a 44-hour week, and clerks

¹ TASMANIA. INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT: *Ninth Annual Report, for 1923-1924, on Factories, Wages Boards, Shops, etc.* Hobart, Govt. Printer, 1924. 23 pp.

² For summary of the 1922-1923 report, cf. *International Labour Review*. Vol. IX, No. 5, May 1924, pp. 761-762.

usually worked 41 hours. Only six wages boards issued new determinations during the year (p. 22). Arrears of wages were recovered by the Department on behalf of 414 employees, to the amount of nearly sixteen hundred pounds (p. 22). Licences were issued to apprentices over 21 years of age, improvers, and aged, slow, and infirm persons, to work for less than the standard rates of wages ; particulars of these are given for each industrial group (pp. 20-21).

The two employment exchanges registered 1,296 applicants for employment during the year, in addition to 351 left on the register at the end of 1922-1923, and placed 1,346 persons in employment — leaving fewer unsatisfied applicants at the end of the period than in the previous year (p. 23).