

As will be seen from the table set out in this report, 63 appeals were withdrawn during the year. The reason why so many appeals are withdrawn is explained by the fact that for various reasons the parties concerned do not always reach a final decision by the date fixed for filing appeals. Consequently, an appeal is lodged to safeguard the position and is subsequently withdrawn after mature consideration.

Of the appeals lodged during the year, only 196 were proceeded with, which represent less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the applications dealt with by Land Sales Committees.

The Land Sales Court has given a number of important decisions during the year on appeals relative to the interpretation of various portions of the Act and on other major issues which have been the subject of some doubt in the minds of solicitors and valuers. These decisions of the Court have no doubt had a considerable bearing on the decline in the number of appeals now being lodged.

OFFENCES UNDER THE ACT

During the year there have been a considerable number of successful prosecutions for offences under the Act and substantial penalties have been inflicted in some instances.

THE EXERCISE OF CROWN RIGHTS UNDER PART II AND PART III (SECTION 51) OF THE ACT

Details of land acquired under Parts II and III (section 51) of the Act are given in a later section of this report under the heading of "Land Development and Settlement of Ex-servicemen."

RETURN OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1948

Registry.	Brought forward from Previous Year.	Received.	Granted without Hearing.	Granted after Hearing.	Granted subject to Conditions	Refused or Withdrawn.	Total finalized.	Action incomplete.
Farm lands—								
Auckland	152	1,129	496	67	457	94	1,114	167
Hamilton	159	839	604	16	105	130	855	143
Gisborne	9	165	92	7	40	11	150	24
Napier	39	317	209	10	75	25	319	37
New Plymouth ..	56	400	258	1	102	37	398	58
Wellington	56	511	275	4	182	44	505	62
Blenheim	14	62	28	3	28	8	67	9
Nelson	28	275	162	..	86	27	275	28
Hokitika	1	67	40	3	14	6	63	5
Christchurch ..	71	798	515	20	208	51	794	75
Dunedin	96	460	239	7	174	52	472	84
Invercargill ..	99	443	274	7	124	65	470	72
Totals	780	5,466	3,192	145	1,595	550	5,482	764
Other lands—								
Auckland	869	9,424	5,341	576	3,205	257	9,379	914
Hamilton	374	3,837	2,815	88	544	252	3,699	512
Gisborne	23	689	470	12	164	22	668	44
Napier	188	1,692	1,071	11	496	75	1,653	227
New Plymouth ..	140	1,441	827	8	532	98	1,465	116
Wellington	901	7,255	3,793	57	3,086	402	7,338	818
Blenheim	34	476	229	14	222	23	488	22
Nelson	120	1,129	751	1	336	66	1,154	95
Hokitika	34	418	249	4	146	19	418	34
Christchurch ..	836	5,155	2,659	77	2,582	210	5,528	463
Dunedin	381	2,950	1,391	9	1,270	289	2,959	372
Invercargill ..	162	1,420	833	14	480	94	1,421	161
Totals	4,062	35,886	20,429	871	13,063	1,807	36,170	3,778
Grand totals ..	4,842	41,352	23,621	1,016	14,658	2,357	41,652	4,542