

Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin. The effects of these appointments are already such as to justify one of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Apprenticeship and Related Matters (1944)—the recommendation that officers should be appointed, “whose function it is to take the initiative.”

NOTE.—The areas administered by the District Commissioners comprise the following departmental districts :—

Auckland : Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Taumarunui, Paeroa, Tauranga, Rotorua, and Gisborne.
 Wellington : Napier, Hastings, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Masterton, Lower Hutt, Wellington, Blenheim, and Nelson.
 Christchurch : Westport, Greymouth, Christchurch, Ashburton, and Timaru.
 Dunedin : Oamaru, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

(b) *New Zealand Apprenticeship Committees*

(1) New Zealand Apprenticeship Committees have now been set up in twelve industries or groups of industries. They are motor trades, plumbing and gasfitting, baking and pastrycooking, furniture trades, mechanical dentistry, watchmaking and jewellery-manufacturing, &c., painting and decorating, printing and photo-engraving, shipwrighting and coopering, clothing and bespoke tailoring, electrical trades, and boot trades. All but the last three of the Committees have met at least once, and meetings for these three have been arranged. Applications for New Zealand apprenticeship orders have been made to the Court of Arbitration by the Motor Trade, Plumbing and Gasfitting, and Baking and Pastrycooking Committees. In addition, draft apprenticeship orders have been prepared for watchmaking, &c., and painting and decorating, and applications for these orders are pending.

(2) The Committees are giving a good deal of attention to the question of the education of apprentices. The Bakers' Committee, for example, has recommended the establishment of schools for bakers' and pastrycooks' apprentices, and has provided in its recommendations to the Court that apprentices should be released in normal working-hours for attendance at such schools for periods of not less than a week at a time, and not more than four weeks in a year, with their wages for the time required paid by their employers.

(c) *Local Apprenticeship Committees*

(1) At 31st March there were 171 local Apprenticeship Committees in existence, of which 163 were active, in the sense that they had met during the past twelve months. The District Commissioners are *ex officio* chairman of all local Committees in their district but they have delegated their duties to other officers of the Department in places outside the four main centres. Almost half of the local Committees are in such towns.

(2) The carrying-out of one duty laid upon the local Committees by the Amendment Act of 1946—that of deciding whether or not an employer should be allowed to engage an apprentice—is being expedited by means of sub-committees appointed by local Committees to deal with applications as soon as possible after their receipt. Although a good deal of publicity has been given to the requirement of “prior consent” as it is conveniently known, there are still some employers who are not aware of it or who ignore it, and it has already been necessary to institute Court proceedings against some such employers. The danger of harm being done to a boy's career through his (and often his parents') mistaken belief that he is properly apprenticed is too great to allow of any neglect of the statutory requirement that the consent of the appropriate local Committee must be obtained before the contract is entered into.