

The greatest difficulty encountered in the building of rural houses is the reluctance of builders to undertake work in isolated country areas when there is ample work available in the towns. Nevertheless, some builders have co-operated willingly with the Division and have undertaken work in an effort to facilitate the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen and to assist the economy of the Dominion.

(c) *Timber-workers*.—The scheme for the provision of portable houses for timber-mill workers which was commenced in 1947 is proceeding very satisfactorily.

These houses are partly financed by a levy on timber-production through the Timber Production Advisory Committee.

During the year 269 houses were completed, and at 31st March 63 were under construction. Contracts have been let for 90 more, and arrangements are in hand to let a further 53.

These houses were designed for prefabrication in the factory and erection on the site, although many builders prefer to do the whole of the construction on the actual site

7. REHABILITATION TRAINEE CONTRACTS

The year was one of considerable activity for rehabilitation trainees. During the year, 1,044 houses were completed, bringing the total to date to 2,276. In other words, 46 per cent. of the total houses built under this scheme were completed in the twelve months ended 31st March, 1949.

The following tables show the trainee activities in each housing district, together with comparative figures for previous years :—

—	Auckland.	Hamilton.	Napier.	Palmerston North.	Wellington.	Christchurch.	Dunedin.	Total.
UNITS HANDED OVER								
Up to 31st March, 1947	122	40	65	20	150	79	68	544
Year ended 31st March, 1948	141	61	88	43	96	163	96	688
Year ended 31st March, 1949	202	70	151	103	214	190	114	1,044
Total to date	465	171	304	166	460	432	278	2,276
UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION								
As at 31st March, March, 1947	152	50	118	59	167	162	93	801
As at 31st March, 1948	200	112	163	119	211	187	138	1,130
As at 31st March, 1949	183	133	103	110	136	112	136	913
NUMBER OF TRAINEES EMPLOYED								
As at 31st March, 1947	488	167	206	145	396	312	199	1,913
As at 31st March, 1948	526	301	270	258	416	326	334	2,431
As at 31st March, 1949	398	205	272	305	334	302	255	2,071

8. LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL

The acquisition of land for subdivision and development into sites for State housing purposes has been well maintained, and during the year approval has been obtained to acquire either by direct purchase or under the Public Works Act sufficient land to provide an additional 3,816 houses in 62 different towns. Since the inception of the Government's housing scheme, land sufficient for a total number of 52,110 house units