

(9) The resident capacity of the various hostels and camps operating at 31st March, 1949, is set out below (hostels established since 31st March, 1948, are asterisked):—

Camps and Hostels.	District.	Capacity.	
Industrial workers' camps (males)—		M.	F.
Waikaraka Park	Auckland	340	..
Mangere (Maoris)	"	110	..
Hataitai	Wellington	200	..
Winter Show	"	200	..
Petone	Hutt Valley	400	..
Industrial workers' hostels (female)—			
Hanson's Lane	Christchurch	..	33
Orient	{ Wellington	..	90
Woburn } Operated by Y.W.C.A.	{ Hutt Valley	..	280
Immigration hostels—			
St. Kilda	Dunedin	150	..
Wigram (combined)	Christchurch	120	160
Fort Dorset	Wellington	104	..
"	"	..	192
North Head	Auckland	140	..
Narrow Neck	"	..	138
Public Service hostels—			
Oriental Bay	Wellington	98	..
Hobson Street	"	..	55
117 Tinakori Road	"	..	21
Mechanics Bay (operated by Post and Telegraph Department. Public Service allocation, 24 beds)	Auckland	24	..
Home aid hostels—			
146 Dominion Road	Auckland	..	10
175 Vivian Street	Wellington	..	12
Miners' hostels—			
Reefton	West Coast	50	..
*Huntly	Waikato	100	..
*Granity	Buller	6	..

(c) Training of Shearers

(1) To assist in overcoming the shortage of shearers which became apparent in the post-war years the Department, in conjunction with the New Zealand Wool Board, introduced at the commencement of the 1947–48 season a subsidized scheme to encourage young men to learn the craft of shearing. Finance to meet the cost of subsidies was provided entirely by the New Zealand Wool Board, but the administration of the scheme and the placement of learners was undertaken by the Department through its district officers.

(2) Under the scheme young men accepted for training were taken into the shearing-shed during actual shearing operations and taught shearing by one of the experienced shearers employed. The learner received a flat weekly wage of £5 13s. during the three weeks of the training period. Farmers and shearing contractors engaging approved learners were subsidized to the extent of £3 per man-week, of which the sum of £1 per week was diverted to the experienced shearer instructing the learner.

(3) The scheme met with reasonable success in districts where the shortage of shearers was most acute—viz., Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, Oamaru, and Dunedin. Some 75 learners were trained, while an additional 20 passed through classes conducted by technical colleges also subsidized by the New Zealand Wool Board. District reports indicated that, with few exceptions, the learners developed into competent shearers. It is believed that the great majority of these 95 men resumed shearing in the 1948–49 season.