

COUNCILS OF CONCILIATION.

The results of the work of the Commissioners of Conciliation is summarized in the following table :—

Industrial District.	Number fully settled.	Number partially settled.	Number in which no Settlement was made, and whole Dispute was referred to Court.	Total.
Northern and Taranaki	17	7	2	26
Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland	19	5	1	25
Canterbury, and Otago and Southland ..	29	2	5	36
Grand totals	65	14	8	87

It will be seen that the total number of cases fully settled this year is only 2 short of those for last year. Considering the total number of cases dealt with in the last two years (189), it appears to me to be extremely satisfactory that 132 of the cases have been fully settled, whilst the cases referred to the Court—i.e., in which no settlement has been come to by the Conciliation Commissioners and their assessors—for the two years, total but 20. The cases in which a partial settlement was come to total, for the two years, 37. The reports of the three Commissioners appear in this report.

MONEYS RECOVERED FOR WORKERS UNDER VARIOUS ACTS.

Inspectors of the Department have recovered the total sum of £1,250 13s. 1d. on behalf of workers, as detailed by the table given hereunder. The amounts consisted mainly of money due for back wages, payment for holidays, overtime, &c. The cases were not considered serious enough for prosecution, as the lapses were found to be committed through inadvertence. The following table shows the amounts collected under the various Acts according to industrial districts :—

Industrial District.	Under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.	Under the Factories Act.	Under the Shops and Offices Act.	Under the Wages Protection Act.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Northern	113 13 4	17 3 8	31 5 2	
Taranaki	13 9 7	54 9 0	14 9 6	
Wellington	196 12 8	48 17 5	19 2 7	12 5 4
Westland		1 6 0		0 15 0
Canterbury	434 7 8	13 18 3		
Otago and Southland ..	272 3 8	6 14 3		
	1,030 6 11	142 8 7	64 17 3	13 0 4

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

There were 21 cases brought before the Arbitration Court under this Act, 17 less than last year. As a result, 7 workers partially incapacitated by accident received various amounts, totalling £715 17s. 10d. In one case a worker wholly incapacitated by accident received £335. In 4 cases the widows and relatives of fatally injured workers received various amounts, totalling £1,556 5s. In 2 additional cases arising out of fatal accidents the defendants admitted liability for the amounts claimed, and the Court had merely to apportion the totals between various dependents: the amounts thus apportioned totalled £608 5s. In 2 cases the Court decided that the plaintiffs were entitled to the benefits of the Act, but ordered the parties to come to a private agreement as to the amount of compensation. Five cases were dismissed.

Undoubtedly the less number of cases brought before the Court is due to the fact that the majority are settled by private arrangement between the parties. Such settlements are rendered fairly easy of calculation, as the Second Schedule to the Act fixes the amount of compensation payable for certain classes of accidents. Then, too, the cases already decided by the Court itself form excellent precedents for cases that subsequently arise.

1. A widow, resident in Victoria, claimed compensation for the death of her husband, a coal-miner who was killed on the West Coast. It was claimed on plaintiff's behalf that deceased was domiciled in New Zealand at the time of his death, and that his wife must therefore be considered as being likewise domiciled in New Zealand. Evidence showed that deceased had come to New