

The following table shows the number of applications dealt with under this legislation during the year ended the 31st March, 1933 :—

APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 56 OF THE FINANCE ACT, 1932, FOR RELIEF FROM THE PROVISIONS OF APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS.

Trade.	Total Number of Applica- tions.	Nature of Decision.			
		Contracts varied.	Contracts suspended.	Contracts cancelled.	Relief refused.
Baking	28	27	1	..	..
Boilermaking	18	15	3	..	..
Boot-repairing	1	1	..	..	..
Bricklaying	3	3	..	..	..
Carpentering	118	94	16	4	4
Coachbuilding	46	40	5	..	1
Electrical	91	90	..	1	..
Engineering	138	123	9	5	1
Motor-engineering	62	56	3	3	..
Furniture	75	71	3	1	..
Gardening	1	1	..	..	..
Hairdressing	10	9	..	1	..
Jewellery	3	3	..	..	..
Leadlight	1	1	..	..	..
Moulding	14	14	..	..	..
Painting	47	39	7	1	..
Plumbing	136	125	8	3	..
Plastering	18	17	..	..	1
Printing	46	38	5	3	..
Tinsmithing	39	39	..	..	..
Wicker-working	1	..	..	1	..
Totals	896	806	60	23	7

ARREARS OF WAGES.

Amounts totalling £3,655 13s. 5d. were collected by the Department's officers on behalf of workers who had been underpaid the wages prescribed by awards and the various Acts, while further amounts of such arrears, totalling £2,404 7s. 2d., were paid by employers, at the instance of the Inspectors, directly to the workers concerned : total, £6,060 0s. 7d.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

The following cases have been heard and determined by the Court of Arbitration during the last seven years : 1926, 60 ; 1927, 99 ; 1928, 99 ; 1929, 101 ; 1930, 123 ; 1931, 175 ; 1932, 133.

The more important decisions, with a digest thereof, are published in " New Zealand Workers' Compensation Cases," which is issued annually by the Department.

SHEARERS' ACCOMMODATION ACT.

All necessary inspections under this Act were previously carried out by the Inspectors of the Agriculture Department, but following the report of the National Expenditure Commission set up in 1932 the Government decided that inspection of shearers' accommodation should be suspended during the present economic depression.

SCAFFOLDING AND EXCAVATION ACT.

During the year 2,509 notices of intention to erect buildings and scaffoldings and to commence excavations were received, and 9,498 inspections were made.

There were four prosecutions, convictions being recorded in three cases, the other being withdrawn ; fines, £2.

The number of accidents to workers during the year ending 31st December, 1932, is 150 (of which 4 were fatal). Of the 150 accidents 142 were of a minor nature. It should be mentioned that the