

FIRE BRIGADES ACT.

By the union of the City of Christchurch and the Borough of Woolston the district of the Woolston Fire Board ceased to exist. There are thirty-four fire Boards in operation.

CINEMATOGRAPH-FILM CENSORSHIP.

During the year 2,432 pictures, of a total length of 5,672,720 ft. have been examined; of these forty-one were rejected and 203 were passed subject to eliminations. Nine appeals against the decision of the Censor were heard, of which number five were dismissed and four were allowed subject to certain excisions.

The personnel of the Board of Appeal is as follows—Mr. H. M. Gore, Chairman, Mrs. K. Preston, Mrs. F. Righton.

BOXING ASSOCIATIONS.

Several applications for approval under section 58 of the Police Offences Act, 1908, have been received from boxing association; and dealt with. In three instances the applications emanated from clubs formed within a radius of twenty miles of an approved club. As a result of correspondence with the New Zealand Boxing Council it was decided to disallow each application, it being considered that all boxing clubs or associations within a radius of twenty miles should be affiliated to and controlled by one association.

CONSULS.

The following named countries have arranged for consular jurisdiction in New Zealand: Finland; Latvia; Danzig (Free City of); Poland; Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The Consulate-General of the United States of America has been removed from Auckland to Wellington.

MOTOR REGULATION ACT.

The following additional County Councils have been approved as registering authorities under Part II of the Motor Regulation Act, 1908, viz: Coromandel; Hokianga; Tawera. The registering authorities throughout the Dominion now total 143.

SOLDIERS' AND HISTORICAL GRAVES.

Inspections of old soldiers' and historical graves, which now total 1,000, have been carried out in the majority of cemeteries in the Dominion, this work being done in conjunction with inspections of "war graves" of the Great War. Where necessary, suitable arrangements have been made for the maintenance of the graves, and photographs have been taken for record purposes.

There are 1668 "war graves" in the Dominion, on approximately 400 of which permanent work has been completed by the relatives, and the Government will therefore have to provide headstones for the balance, plus those graves on which relatives desire the universal headstone to replace the existing stone. The total cemeteries containing "war graves" is 290, all of which have been inspected, with the exception of those north of Kaikohe, North Auckland, and arrangements made for upkeep where necessary. Pending the erection of the universal headstones, temporary crosses (wooden) are being erected, and 1,050 such crosses have been placed in position. The universal headstones, which are of the same design as those being erected over the graves of New Zealand soldiers buried abroad, will be of Coromandel granite, and the contract for the supply of 1,200 stones within three years has been let. The first constructional work at the Soldiers' Cemetery, Featherston, where there are 182 "war graves," has been completed. The headstones for Feathers on will be erected before the close of 1922, and headstones will also be placed over the graves in Palmerston North Cemetery. In addition to the two memorials, the "Cross of Sacrifice" and the "Stone of Remembrance," to be erected in Soldiers' Cemeteries at Auckland, Featherston, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, special memorials to those members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force buried at sea between Egypt and New Zealand, and between Europe and New Zealand, will be erected at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, bearing the names of the men from the respective provinces. The names of other soldiers buried at sea will appear on a memorial at Gallipoli. On the recommendation of the N.Z.E.F. War Graves Committee, it has been decided to letter ages on the headstones where relatives so desire.

LAND AGENTS ACT.

There were 1,215 licenses issued and ten transfers granted during the year, as compared with 1,466 licenses and three transfers during the previous year.

A new Land Agents Act was passed last session, repealing the 1912 Act, which contained many defects. The new Act sets out a new procedure relative to the obtaining of a license, and provides for objections to be lodged with and heard by a Magistrate along with the application. The land agents' year was altered, and now commences on the 1st April in each year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The past year has again been a particularly active one in matters affecting local government, especially the latter part of the year, on account of the amount of local-government legislation passed during the last session. One of the Acts passed—namely, the Local Bodies' Finance Act—was of considerable importance both to the finances of local bodies and to the country in general.

Counties. The most important move in county government was that contained in the Waikato and King-country Counties Act. This Act was the outcome of the report of the Commission set up to consider generally the question of the local government in the Waikato and King-country districts,