APPRENTICES BILL

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

THE purpose of this Bill is to re-enact the Apprentices Act, 1923, and its amendments.

In rewriting the legislation, more modern forms of words have been used where any change is considered appropriate and the clauses have been arranged in more logical sequence.

Alterations in existing law are referred to below, but the principles of the existing legislation have not been altered. A table is annexed enabling a comparison with existing legislation to be made.

NEW MATTER IN THE BILL

- Clause 2 (1): The term "industry" has been redefined so as to correspond with the definition in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925.
- Clause 8 (2): The proviso to this subclause provides that a New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee shall consist of four representatives of employers and four representatives of workers if the Committee is appointed in respect of a group of industries.
- Clause 8 (4): This subclause limits the term of office of members of Committees to three years.
- Clause 8 (5): This subclause provides for a quorum for Committees. At present a similar provision is contained in regulations.
- Clause 8 (8): This subclause provides for the replacement of members of Committees who die or resign. At present application has to be made to the Court to fill vacancies.
- Clause 13 (4) (k): This paragraph authorizes a Committee to delegate its powers of inspection to two non-members of the Committee where it would be inconvenient for members of the Committee to exercise those powers.
- Clause 20 (3): This subclause provides that contracts of apprenticeship shall not have any validity until consented to in accordance with the Act.
- Clauses 27 (1) (2) (3) (6): These subclauses define the procedure when an apprentice is transferred.
- Clause 36 (1): Minor additions have been made to the law applicable when an apprentice loses his employment through the insolvency of his employer.
- Clause 37 (3): This subclause gives a parent or guardian (if any) an opportunity of being heard when application is made to discharge an apprentice.
- Clause 37 (6): This subclause provides for notice of an appeal under the clause being given to the appropriate Committee.
- Clause 41 (4): This subclause provides that moneys due under a contract of apprenticeship may be recovered in the same manner as is provided by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, in respect of the recovery of wages.
- Clause 41 (5): This subclause provides that proceedings for a breach of the Act may be taken by an Inspector of Factories.

TABLE OF CORRESPONDING SECTIONS OF ENACTMENTS REPEALED

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[As reported from the Labour Bills Committee] House of Representatives, 14th September, 1948

Hon. Mr. McLagan

APPRENTICES

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

Title.

An Acr to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Apprentices.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Apprentices Act, 1948.

Preliminary

Interpretation.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise 10 requires,—

Cf. 1923, No. 41, s. 2 1946, No. 4, s. 2 See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. III, p. 954 Ibid., p. 1021

- "Agreement" means an industrial agreement filed under section twenty-eight of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, or an agreement filed under section eight of 15 the Labour Disputes Investigation Act, 1913:
- "Apprentice" means any person of either sex who has contracted to serve an employer and to learn and be taught any industry:
- "Apprenticeship Order" means an order made 20 pursuant to subsection one of section thirteen of this Act, and includes any amendment thereof and any matters included therein pursuant to this Act or any other enactment:

"Award" means an award of the Court of Arbitration under the Industrial Conciliation See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. III, p. 939 and Arbitration Act, 1925: "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Apprenticeship: 5 "Court" means the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925: "District Commissioner" means a Commissioner of Apprenticeship: 10 "Employer" includes persons, firms, companies, and corporations employing one or more workers: "Industry" means— 15 (a) Any business, trade, manufacture, undertaking, or calling of employers; and (b) Any calling, service, employment, handicraft, or occupation of workers. "Local Committee" means an Apprenticeship 20 Committee appointed in respect particular locality: "Minister" means the Minister of Labour: "New Zealand Committee" means a New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee. 25 (2) In the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by this Act the Court shall be deemed to act as a controlling authority rather than in its ordinary judicial capacity, save that nothing herein shall be construed to limit the powers of the Court in the 30 exercise of its functions for the purposes of this Act. 3. (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided herein, Application. (a) To all employers engaged in an industry in s.3 which apprentices are completely an industry in s.3 this Act shall apply which apprentices are employed and who are \$.19 35 for the time being bound by an award or 1946, No. 4, agreement relating to that industry; and also s. 17 to all other employers engaged in any such industry to whom this Act is applied by order of the Court: 40 (b) To all apprentices employed by any such employers in any such industry:

(c) To all contracts of apprenticeship between any such employers and apprentices.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection one hereof, nothing in this Act shall apply—

- (a) To the apprenticeship of any female, except in such cases and on such conditions as the Court may by order direct, or except in any industry in respect of which the Court has by apprenticeship order prescribed the conditions of employment of female apprentices in that industry.
- (b) To any student of a university college or other 10 educational institution who is exempted by order of the Court:
- (c) To any apprentice serving under articles of apprenticeship of any of the classes referred to in section eleven of the Pharmacy Act, 15 1939.
- (3) In so far as any provisions of this Act are in conflict with any Act making specific provision for the training of workers in any industry, the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to have no application.

Commissioner and District Commissioners

4. (1) There shall from time to time be appointed an officer of the Public Service to be called the Commissioner of Apprenticeship.

(2) There shall also from time to time be appointed 25 such number of officers of the Public Service as may be found necessary for the purposes of the administration of this Act, to be called District Commissioners of Apprenticeship.

(3) Every District Commissioner shall be subject 30 to the direction and control of the Commissioner.

Apprenticeship Committees

New Zealand Apprenticeship Committees. Cf. ibid., s. 4 5. (1) Where there exists in any industry or group of industries an organization of employers and an organization of workers or organizations of employers 35 and organizations of workers (whether registered under any Act or not) and those organizations agree in writing to the appointment of an Apprenticeship Committee in respect of the industry or group of industries for the whole of New Zealand, they may 40 register the agreement in the prescribed manner, and the Committee shall thereupon become a New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee.

1939, No. 33

Commissioner and District

Commissioners

Apprenticeship.

Cf. 1946, No. 4,

(2) The Court may at any time, of its own motion or on the application of the Commissioner or of any person interested, appoint a New Zealand Committee in respect of any industry or group of industries in 5 respect of which no New Zealand Committee has been agreed upon under the last preceding subsection.

6. Each New Zealand Committee shall have the Functions of

following functions:—

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(a) To estimate the requirements of the industry Cf. 1946, No. 4, or group of industries in respect of which it s.5 has been appointed as to the number of apprentices required from time to time to ensure that the requisite number of skilled tradesmen are being trained:

(b) To recommend to the appropriate authorities and organizations the taking of such steps as seem desirable to ensure that the aforesaid

requirements are satisfied:

(c) To apply to the Court for an order governing apprenticeships in any industry, or any branch of any industry, in respect of which it has been appointed:

(d) To give consideration to what prerequisite education, if any, should be laid down for apprentices wishing to enter the industry:

(e) To co-operate with the Department of Education for the purpose of ensuring that the apprentices obtain the maximum amount of educational training:

(f) To give consideration to the question of the introduction of educational training during normal working-hours and whether it is desirable and practicable:

(g) To give consideration to the question of the introduction of a practical test for each apprentice before the completion of his apprenticeship:

(h) To make recommendations to the Court respecting the making of any order relating to the aforesaid matters or any other matters referred to in section thirteen of this Act:

New Zealand Committees.

- (*i*) To exercise such powers inrelation apprenticeships as are delegated to it by the
- (i) Such other functions as are conferred on it by this Act or otherwise howsoever.

Local Apprenticeship Committees. Cf. 1923, No. 41,

- 7. (1) Where there exists in any industry or group of industries to which this Act applies an organization of employers and an organization of workers (whether registered under any Act or not) and those organizations agree in writing to the appointment of an 10 Apprenticeship Committee for a specified locality, they may register the agreement in the prescribed manner. and the Committee shall thereupon become a local Committee.
- (2) The Court may at any time, on its own motion 15 or on the application of the Commissioner of Apprenticeship or of any person interested, appoint a local Committee in any industry or group of industries in any locality in which no Committee has been agreed upon under the last preceding subsection.

8. (1) The Commissioner of Apprenticeship shall be the Chairman of each New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee, and the appropriate District Commissioner of Apprenticeship shall be the Chairman of each local Committee:

Provided that the Commissioner and any District Commissioner may, either in respect of any particular meeting or in respect of any particular Committee, appoint any officer of the Department of Labour to act as the Chairman of the Committee in his place:

Provided also that the Chairman of any meeting shall have a deliberative vote, but shall not have a casting vote.

(2) Every Committee, whether a New Zealand Committee or a local Committee, shall consist of the 35 Chairman and seven other members, of whom three shall be representatives of the employers, three shall be representatives of the workers, and one shall be a person conversant with technical education:

Provided that, where a New Zealand Committee has 40 been established in respect of a group of industries, there shall may be four representatives of employers and four of workers.

Membership of Apprenticeship Committees. Cf. 1946, No. 4,

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(3) The powers of a Committee shall not be affected

by any vacancy in the membership thereof.

(4) All members of a Committee, except the Chairman, shall be appointed for a period of three years, 5 but shall be eligible for reappointment.

(5) At any meeting of a Committee five members

shall form a quorum.

(6) It shall not be necessary in the agreement or order of the Court appointing a Committee to name 10 the members of the Committee if provision is made in the agreement or order for the members to be nominated in a manner prescribed by regulations or approved by the Court:

Provided that if default is made at any time for 15 a space of thirty-one days in the making of appropriate nominations the Commissioner in the case of a New Zealand Committee, or a District Commissioner in the case of a local Committee, may appoint a qualified

person to be a member of the Committee.

20 (7) In every Committee a majority of the members who are appointed as representatives of employers or Cf. 1930, No. 25, of workers, as the case may be, shall consist of persons s. 2 (1) who are, or have at some time been, actually engaged either as employers or as workers in the industry or 25 in any one of the group of industries in respect of which the Committee is appointed.

(8) If any member of a Committee dies, or resigns his office in writing addressed to the Commissioner or the District Commissioner, as the case may be, the 30 Committee shall request the person or body of persons

who appointed or nominated him, or the Court, as the case may require, to appoint or nominate some

other qualified person in his stead.

(9) If any member of a Committee is absent from 35 three consecutive meetings of the Committee without the leave of the Committee, the Committee, or the Chairman, may call upon him to show cause why his seat should not be declared vacant; and if that member does not at the next meeting satisfy the Committee 40 that he had reasonable cause for being so absent, the Committee may by resolution declare his seat to be vacant, and request the person or body of persons who appointed or nominated him, or the Court, as the case may require, to appoint or nominate some other 45 qualified person in his stead.

(10) Where any person or persons body of as aforesaid fails to make an appointment or nomination as provided for in subsections eight and nine of this section within a period of thirty-one days after being requested so to do, the Commissioner in the case of a New Zealand Committee, or a District Commissioner in the case of a local Committee, may appoint or nominate a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

(11) The Court may at any time, of its own motion or on the application of the Commissioner or of any 10 person interested, remove or replace any member of a Committee, or may discharge a Committee, or may extend or reduce the limits of the locality in which a local Committee may exercise its powers and functions.

9. (1) Where in any case any Apprenticeship Com- 15 mittee is unable to come to a decision on any matter the matter may be referred by it to the Court for decision. In every such case any person -er-persons or any organization of employers or of workers who would have been affected had the Committee come to 20 a decision shall be entitled, before the Court decides the matter, either to appear before and be heard by it or to submit to it a statement in writing.

(2) Where in any such case the Committee does not within a reasonable time refer the matter to the Court, 25 any person or persons or any organization of employers or of workers affected may apply to the Court for such matter to be decided by it, and the Court, if it thinks fit, may order such matter to be referred to it for decision. and in such case the Court shall, before deciding the 30 matter, give to the Committee and the applicant and all other persons or organizations affected an opportunity either to appear before and be heard by the Court or to submit to it a statement in writing.

10. (1) Where no local Committee has appointed in respect of any industry or group of industries in any locality, or where the Court has discharged any local Committee, the Court, instead of appointing such a Committee, may, by order, confer on a District Commissioner with respect to any such 40 industry or group of industries such of the powers that may be conferred by it on a local Committee 🐙 it thinks fit, and the District Commissioner in respect of the exercise of the powers so conferred shall for all purposes be deemed to be a local Committee:

Where Apprenticeship Committee unable to come to decision, matter to be referred to Court. Cf. 1930, No. 25,

When Court may authorize District Commissioner to exercise powers of Committees. Cf. ibid., s. 5

Provided that nothing in this subsection or in any order of the Court thereunder shall confer power on a District Commissioner to make any recommendation with respect to the making or amendment by the Court 5 of an order under section thirteen of this Act.

(2) The Court may at any time cancel or amend

any such order.

11. The Commissioner or any New Zealand Com-Commissioner mittee may at any time, in any matter arising out of Apprenticeship 10 his or its duties, state a case for the advice and Committee opinion of the Court.

may state case for Court. Cf. 1930, No. 25,

12. (1) There shall be paid out of moneys appro- Allowances priated by Parliament for the purpose to the members and travelling-expenses. of New Zealand Committees who are not officers Cf. 1946, No. 4. 15 employed in the service of the Crown such remuneration s. 7 by way of fees and allowances and such travelling expenses and allowances as may from time to time be prescribed by regulations under this Act.

(2) There shall be paid out of moneys appropriated 20 by Parliament for the purpose to the members of local Committees who are not officers employed in the service of the Crown all amounts actually and reasonably expended by them, and compensation for loss of earnings, in attending meetings of the Committee of 25 which they are members or in travelling on the business of the Committee with the authority of the Committee.

Apprenticeship Orders

13. (1) From time to time, as may be necessary, court may the Court shall make such order or orders as it may make orders 30 think fit in respect of each industry or branch thereof apprenticeships. to which this Act applies prescribing—

(a) The wages, hours, and other conditions of employment to be incorporated in contracts of apprenticeship in any specified industry:

Provided that in no case shall the hours of employment of an apprentice be greater than the maximum (if any) prescribed by statute or by award or agreement for other workers in the industry, nor shall an apprentice be employed at any time when the

Cf. 1923, No. 41,

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employment of other workers in the industry and in the same locality would be a breach of any statute or of any award or agreement:

(b) The period of apprenticeship in any industry:

(c) The minimum age at which a person may commence to serve as an apprentice in any industry.

(2) The Court may at any time cancel or amend

any order made pursuant to this section.

(3) Before making any such order, amendment, or 10 cancellation the Court shall afford the employers and the workers in the industry, and any other persons whom the Court may deem to be concerned, an opportunity of being heard and of calling evidence in respect thereof:

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Provided that where, in the opinion of the Court, a proposed amendment of an order is of a routine or trivial nature it shall not be necessary to hear formal evidence in respect thereof.

(4) Without in any way limiting the general powers 20 conferred on it by the foregoing provisions of this section, the Court shall also have power in any

apprenticeship order or otherwise:—

(a) To require any employer or group of employers jointly and severally to employ and to con- 25 tinue to employ such number of apprentices as the Court may consider necessary to ensure an adequate supply of journeymen in the interests of the industry:

(b) To cancel any contract of apprenticeship:

(c) To prohibit, on such grounds and on such conditions as the Court may think fit, any employer from employing or continuing to employ an apprentice:

(d) To order the transfer of any apprentice from 35 an employer to any other employer who is willing and able to undertake the obligations

of the original employer:

(e) To require an employer to give to an apprentice further facilities within the scope of his 40 business to enable the apprentice to acquire a proper knowledge of the industry:

(f) To fix the period of probation to be served by an apprentice in any industry:

(g) To order the attendance of any apprentice or apprentices at a technical school or other place where suitable training is available (whether during the ordinary hours of employment or otherwise) in any case where the Minister of Education has certified that suitable accommodation and training are available at the school or place:

(h) To order any apprentice or apprentices to submit to such examination as the Court may

prescribe:

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(i) To order that any increase in wages due to an apprentice may be withheld by the employer for such period as the Court may think fit:

(i) To order that the period during which any increase is withheld under the last preceding paragraph shall not be deemed to be included

in the period of apprenticeship:

(k) To enter at all reasonable times upon any premises where an apprentice is employed, and to inquire into the training, progress, and welfare of the apprentice, and to delegate any such powers to any person or persons appointed in writing in that behalf:

> Provided that if the powers referred to in this paragraph are delegated by the Court to any Committee the Committee may delegate those powers to one or more members of the Committee, or to two persons, one representing employers and one workers, in any place within the jurisdiction of the Committee which its members cannot conveniently visit:

(1) To determine the number of apprentices, or the proportion of apprentices to journeymen. that may be employed by any employer.

(5) Where a New Zealand Committee has been set 40 up in connection with the industry concerned, the Court shall, in making any order under this section, take into account any recommendation that may be made by the Committee, and the Committee shall, where it can conveniently do so, ascertain the views of local Committees set up in connection with the industry before making any recommendation to the Court.

Delegation of powers by Court to Committees. Cf. 1946, No. 4,

14. (1) Where a New Zealand Committee has been appointed the Court may delegate to that Committee any or all of the powers conferred on it by paragraphs (a), (f), (g), (h), (k), and (l) of subsection four of section thirteen or by section thirty-two of this Act in so far as those powers relate to the industry in respect of 10 which the Committee has been appointed.

(2) Where a local Committee has been appointed the Court may delegate to that Committee any or all of the powers conferred on it by paragraphs (b) to (e), and (i) to (k) of subsection four of section thirteen of 15 this Act in so far as those powers relate to the industry and locality in respect of which the Committee has been appointed.

(3) The Court may at any time revoke or vary any delegation made by it under this section, and no 20 such delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power

by the Court.

(4) Any person affected by a decision of a Committee in respect of any matter delegated to it as aforesaid may, in the prescribed manner, appeal to 25 the Court, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

15. The Court shall not make any apprenticeship order in respect only of a specified locality, but shall make apprenticeship orders in respect of each industry or branch thereof for the whole of New Zealand:

Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the Court from making in any apprenticeship order special provisions which do not relate to the whole of New Zealand, or from amending any apprenticeship order in force on the commencement of 35 this Act.

16. (1) Notwithstanding anything in section seventeen hereof, the Court may in any apprenticeship order provide that—

(a) Any conditions contained in an award or agree- 40 ment relating to any industry shall apply in whole or in part, and either with or without variation, in respect of the employment of apprentices in the industry:

New Zealand apprenticeship orders. Cf. ibid., s. 9

Apprenticeship orders may be related to awards. Cf. ibid., s. 10

(b) The wages of apprentices shall be determined by reference to wages for the time being payable pursuant to any award or agreement relating to the industry.

(2) In any case where provision is made as aforesaid it may relate to one or more awards or agreements in force at the time of the coming into force of the apprenticeship order, whether or not the awards or agreements are in force in every locality in which 10 apprentices may be employed, and may provide that in the event of any award or agreement to which it relates being amended, or in the event of a new award or agreement being substituted therefor, the apprenticeship order shall be interpreted from time to time by 15 reference to the amended or substituted award or agreement in force for the time being.

17. (1) Subject to the provisions of the last preced- No provision ing section, no provision relating to apprentices shall apprenticeships be made in any award or agreement, and any provision to be made in 20 purporting to relate to apprentices in any such award awards or

or agreement shall be void and of no effect.

(2) On the taking effect of an order of the Court s. 17 made under subsection one of section thirteen hereof any provision relating to apprentices in an award or 25 agreement in force at the commencement of this Act shall, so far as it relates to the industry and locality or to the parties concerned, be deemed to be void and of no effect:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be 30 deemed to invalidate any contract of apprenticeship made prior to the date of any such order.

18. (1) The Commissioner, or any District Com- Interpretation missioner, or any Committee, or any organization of of apprenticeship employers or of workers, or any employer or apprentice orders, &c. 35 who is affected thereby, may apply in the prescribed Cf. 1946, No. 4, manner to the Court for the opinion of the Court s. 15 upon any question connected with the construction of any order under this Act or with any determination or direction of the Court under this Act.

(2) The Court may decline to give its opinion where, in the opinion of the Court, it is inadvisable so to do.

Cf. 1923, No. 41,

(3) The Court may refuse to consider itself bound by any opinion so given, whether in respect of the same matter or any other matter, if the Court is satisfied that it has not been fully informed, or that the matter affects parties other than those immediately interested, or where the asking for and obtaining of the opinion has a tendency to defeat or avoid penalties which ought not to be avoided, or to protect parties from the consequences of wilful breaches.

Contracts of Apprenticeship

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Consent required before apprenticeship contract entered into. Cf. ibid., s. 18

19. (1) No employer shall enter into any contract of apprenticeship to which this Act applies without the prior consent in writing of the appropriate local Committee or, where there is no such Committee, of the District Commissioner.

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(2) Any person affected by the refusal of the Committee or of the District Commissioner to consent to a proposed contract of apprenticeship may appeal in the prescribed manner to the Court, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

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(3) No contract of apprenticeship to which this Act applies and which is entered into after the commencement of this Act shall have any validity unless it has been consented to as required by the foregoing provisions of this section:

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Provided that if a contract of apprenticeship has been entered into in contravention of those provisions the Court may, on the application of any person interested and having regard to the interests of the apprentice, by order consent to the contract of appren- 30 ticeship and declare that it shall have full validity as from the date of the order or as from such earlier or later date as may be specified in the order, but nothing in the order shall be deemed to relieve the employer from liability for breach of the provisions of subsection 35 one of this section.

20. (1) For the purposes of this Act every agreement, whether originally expressed in writing or not, made between an employer and a worker, or between

Conditions relating to apprenticeship contracts. Cf. 1923, No. 41, 1925, No. 36, s. 3 an employer and a worker and the parent or guardian of the worker, whereby the employer agrees to teach and the worker agrees to learn any industry shall be

deemed to be a contract of apprenticeship.

(2) Every contract of apprenticeship, or alteration thereof, to which this Act applies shall be in writing, signed by the employer and the apprentice, and, if the apprentice is under the age of twenty-one years, by the parent or guardian (if any) of the apprentice, or, 10 if not made in writing, shall be forthwith reduced to writing signed as aforesaid. It shall be the duty of the parties to any such contract to register the contract or any alteration thereof in the prescribed manner with the District Commissioner for the locality concerned 15 within twenty-eight days after the commencement of the employment of the apprentice (in the case of an original contract), or within fourteen days after the making of the alteration (in the case of an altered contract), and if the contract or alteration is not presented for 20 registration within the prescribed time the parties thereto shall be severally liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

(3) No contract to which this Act applies and which was entered into after the thirty-first day of December, 25 nineteen hundred and forty-six, shall have any validity unless it has been consented to as provided for by section nineteen of this Act and until it has been duly registered, and no such contract entered into before the first day of January, nineteen hundred and 30 forty-seven, nor any alteration of any contract of apprenticeship, shall have any validity until duly registered, but, subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, when any such contract or alteration has been registered it shall operate in accordance with 35 the intention of the parties, save that in the case of an original contract it shall, when so registered, operate as from the commencement of the employment of the apprentice, or, if that commencement is earlier than the giving of the consent required by section mineteen 40 of this Act, from the date of validation specified by the Court.

(4) If the District Commissioner is of opinion in any case that a proposed contract of apprenticeship, or any alteration thereof, submitted for registration is in any respect contrary to the provisions of this Act, or the regulations thereunder, or of any order of the Court or of a Committee, he may refuse to register the proposed contract or alteration.

(5) Any person affected by the refusal of the District Commissioner to register a proposed contract of apprenticeship, or any alteration thereof, may appeal 10 in the prescribed manner to the Court, whose decision

shall be final and conclusive.

(6) In any case where an appeal has been lodged against a refusal to register a proposed contract of apprenticeship, or alteration thereof, the District Com- 15 missioner, if he thinks fit, may, on application, grant a permit in the prescribed form for the employment of the worker in accordance with the proposed contract or alteration pending the decision of the Court.

(7) Every contract of apprenticeship to which this 20 Act applies that was entered into before the application of this Act thereto shall be registered in the prescribed manner within twenty-eight days from the application

of this Act thereto:

Provided that failure to register any such contract 25 shall not affect its validity but the parties thereto shall be severally liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds

for any such failure.

- (8) The termination of a contract of apprenticeship prior to the expiry of the period of probation prescribed 30 by the contract or the termination thereof by agreement of the parties or by discharge of the apprentice for good cause, and every transfer of an apprentice, shall be notified to the District Commissioner by the employer in the prescribed form within fourteen days of such termination, discharge, or transfer.
- 21. Any two or more employers in any industry in the same locality may enter into a contract of apprenticeship with the same apprentice or apprentices on such terms and conditions as the appropriate local Committee or, where there is no such Committee, the District Commissioner may think fit, and such contracts upon being duly registered shall be binding on the employers jointly and severally.

Joint contracts of apprenticeship. Cf. 1923, No. 41, s. 10

22. Where a body corporate is a party to any Execution of contract of apprenticeship the contract need not be contracts of apprenticeship under seal, but may be signed on behalf of the cor- by body poration by such person or persons as by law are corporate. 5 authorized to sign contracts in writing of the corporation, not being contracts under seal.

23. (1) The Court may in any apprenticeship order Form of prescribe, in respect of contracts of apprenticeship to apprenticeship contracts. which the order relates, matters which are to be Ct. 1946, No. 4. 10 included in the contracts in addition to the matters s. 13 referred to in subsection one of section thirteen of this Act, and may prescribe the form of the contracts.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the last preceding subsection, the Court may require that the 15 following particulars be included in the contracts:-

(a) A list of the operations and skills to be taught to the apprentice:

(b) The title of the person who is to undertake or supervise the actual training of the apprentice, and a definition of the scope of his responsibility.

24. (1) Where the Court makes any apprenticeship Apprenticeship order in any industry, whether in substitution for or contracts to be subject to amendment of a previous order or not, then, subject apprenticeship 25 to the provisions of this section, all contracts of orders. apprenticeship to which this Act applies in respect of that industry and which are in force at the time of the coming into force of the order shall be read subject to the terms of the order and be deemed to be modified 30 thereby accordingly.

Cf. ibid., s. 14

(2) Where the Court has, before the commencement of this Act, made any such apprenticeship order as aforesaid in any industry, then, subject to the provisions of this section, all contracts of apprenticeship to which 35 this Act applies in respect of that industry and which were in force at the time of coming into force of the order shall, as from the commencement of this Act, be read subject to the terms of the order and be deemed to be modified thereby accordingly.

(3) In any case where this Act is applied to a contract of apprenticeship in any industry by an apprenticeship order or while an apprenticeship order is in force in respect of that industry, then, subject to the provisions of this section, the contract of apprenticeship to which this Act is applied shall, as from the date on which this Act is so applied, be read subject to the terms of the apprenticeship order and be deemed to be modified thereby accordingly:

Provided that any party to any such contract of 10 apprenticeship as aforesaid may at any time apply to the Court for a modification of the apprenticeship order in so far as it affects the contract of apprenticeship, and the Court may make such modification of the order in relation to that contract as it thinks fit, or may 15 exclude that contract from the operation of the order.

(4) In any case where an apprenticeship order has been amended by any order or amendment made pursuant to the Rates of Wages Emergency Regulations 1940 or the Economic Stabilization Emergency Regulations 1942 the apprenticeship order shall, while the aforesaid order or amendment remains in force, be read for the purposes of the foregoing provisions of this section subject to that order or amendment.

25. (1) If any person who has attained the age of 25 eighteen years desires to enter into a special contract of apprenticeship as an apprentice, the proposed contract of apprenticeship shall be considered by the appropriate local Committee or, where there is no such Committee, by the District Commissioner, and, 30 before the Committee or District Commissioner consents to the contract as provided in section nineteen of this Act, the Committee or District Commissioner shall obtain the approval of the Court thereto.

(2) Application for the approval of the Court shall 35 be made by the Commissioner, who shall submit to the Court the proposed contract, together with the recommendations of the Committee or District Commissioner thereon. If the Court thinks fit, it may, before making its decision, hear any person or any organization of 40 employers or of workers interested in the matter.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act a contract of apprenticeship in any industry approved by the Court pursuant to this section may contain such provisions as the Court thinks reasonable 45

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Adult apprentices. Cf. 1946, No. 4, s. 19

and equitable in the particular circumstances, notwithstanding that they are not in accordance with any apprenticeship order or any other order made under section thirteen of this Act in respect of the industry.

26. (1) An apprentice who is a party to a contract Binding effect of apprenticeship under this Act shall be bound thereby of contract of apprenticeship: throughout its currency, notwithstanding that the Cancellation. apprentice may have attained the age of twenty-one Cf. 1923, No. 41, vears.

10 (2) A parent or guardian of an apprentice who is a party to a contract of apprenticeship under this Act shall be bound thereby until the apprentice attains the

age of twenty-one years, and no longer.

(3) During the period of probation prescribed by 15 any contract of apprenticeship the contract may be cancelled at any time by the employer or by the apprentice where the apprentice has attained the age of twenty-one years, or by the apprentice and his parent or guardian (if any) where the apprentice is under the 20 age of twenty-one years.

Transfers of Apprentices

27. (1) Any employer may make application to a Transfers of local Committee or, where there is no Committee, to apprentices. a District Commissioner for the transfer of an Cf. ibid., s. 14 25 apprentice from himself to another employer in the same industry who is willing and able to undertake the obligations of the first-mentioned employer.

(2) Any apprentice, or the guardian of any apprentice under the age of twenty-one years, may make 30 application to a local Committee or, where there is no Committee, to a District Commissioner for his transfer from his employer to another employer in the same industry who is willing and able to undertake the obligations of the original employer.

(3) The local Committee or the District Commissioner, as the case may be, shall grant or refuse permission for a transfer applied for under subsection

one or subsection two of this section.

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(4) After the expiration of fourteen days from the 40 granting of a transfer by the District Commissioner. or immediately after an order directing a transfer has been made by the Court, the name of the new employer shall be deemed to be substituted in the contract of apprenticeship for that of the former employer, and the contract shall continue in all respects as if the new employer had been an original party to the contract.

(5) The original employer shall thereupon be

relieved from all obligation under the contract.

(6) The District Commissioner shall endorse a note of the transfer on the contract.

Transfer of apprentice to supplement training. Cf. 1946, No. 4, s. 20

28. (1) In any case where the appropriate local Committee or, if there is no such Committee, the District Commissioner considers that an employer is not able to give adequate training in the industry to an apprentice, the Committee or the District Commissioner, as the case may be, on the application of the apprentice and (where the apprentice is under the age of twenty- 15 one years) of his parent or guardian (if any) may transfer the apprentice to another employer in the same industry and locality willing and able to undertake the obligations of the original employer.

(2) In any case where an apprentice is transferred 20 to another employer pursuant to the *last preceding* subsection it shall be lawful for the employer to employ the apprentice so transferred, notwithstanding that the number of apprentices, or the proportion of apprentices to journeymen, employed by the employer exceeds the 25 number or proportion fixed pursuant to section *thirteen*

of this Act.

(3) Where the appropriate local Committee or, if there is no such Committee, the District Commissioner is of opinion that an employer is not able to give an 30 apprentice adequate training in the industry and that it is impossible to find another employer in the same industry and locality willing and able to undertake the obligations of the original employer, the Court, with the consent of the appropriate Minister, may, on the 35 application of the Commissioner made with approval of the appropriate local Committee (if any), make an order transferring the apprentice to a master within the meaning of Part II of the Master and Apprentice Act, 1908. Any transfer as aforesaid may 40 be made on such terms and conditions as to rates of wages, hours, and otherwise howsoever as the Court thinks fit, whether or not the terms and conditions are in accordance with any apprenticeship order. apprentice so transferred shall, subject as aforesaid, 45

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 546 continue to be subject to this Act, and, for the purposes of this Act, the master for the time being shall be

deemed to be the employer.

(4) Where an apprentice is transferred pursuant 5 to the last preceding subsection and extra costs are incurred by reason thereof by the Government Department to which the master is attached the amount of those extra costs shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose.

(5) The provisions of this section are in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of section

fifty-two of the Statutes Amendment Act, 1941.

29. (1) If an employer at any time before the com- Relief of pletion of a contract of apprenticeship desires to be employers in 15 relieved from the contract by reason of slackness of certain cases. 15 relieved from the contract by reason of slackness of cf. 1923, No. 41, work or other sufficient cause, and the apprentice and s. 13 (where the apprentice is under the age of twenty-one years) his parent or guardian (if any) do not agree to the termination of the contract or to the transfer of 20 the apprentice to another employer, the employer may apply in the prescribed form to the District Commissioner for a transfer of the apprentice to another employer in the same industry and locality willing and able to carry out the obligations of the original 25 employer.

(2) The District Commissioner shall thereupon inquire into the circumstances of such application, and

may grant or refuse the transfer accordingly:

Provided that where a Committee has 30 appointed under this Act for the industry and locality the District Commissioner shall refer the application to such Committee, and shall grant or refuse the transfer in accordance with the decision of the Committee.

35 30. Any person affected by a decision of a local Appeals. Committee or a District Commissioner in respect of an application for a transfer of an apprentice may, within fourteen days, appeal in the prescribed manner to the Court, whose decision shall be final and 40 conclusive.

New

30A. In any case where provision is made in this Organizations Act for an appeal to the Court against any decision, of employers or of workers may the Court may, if it thinks fit, hear any organization be heard in 45 of employers or of workers before making its decision. appeals to the Court.

General

Payment of wages in respect of daylight training. Cf. 1946, No. 4,

Apprenticeship term may be shortened where special qualification obtained. Cf. ibid., s. 12

31. Where pursuant to section thirteen of this Act any apprentices have been required to attend at a technical school or other place during ordinary hours of employment to undergo training, the Court may, in an apprenticeship order or otherwise, order the employer to pay wages to any apprentice in respect of any time while he is undergoing training as aforesaid.

32. (1) The Court, by apprenticeship order or otherwise, may provide that the period of apprenticeship 10 shall be shorter in the case of any apprentice who has at the commencement of his apprenticeship, or who obtains during his apprenticeship, any special qualification, either educational or otherwise, specified by the Court, and may make such consequential provisions as 15 it thinks fit for the adjustment of wages or otherwise howsoever.

(2) Where by any enactment it is provided that, before a person desirous of being engaged or employed in any industry may sit for any examination or obtain 20 any certificate or be registered, that person must have served as an apprentice for a specified period, it shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in that enactment, be a sufficient compliance with that requirement by any person if he has obtained the special qualification 25 referred to in the last preceding subsection and has served as an apprentice for such period as may be prescribed by the Court, being shorter than the period specified in the aforesaid enactment by not more than one year.

Certificate of service on discharge of apprentice. Cf. 1923, No. 41, s. 16

33. (1) Whenever for any reason (including the completion of his contract of apprenticeship) an apprentice ceases to be employed by an employer it shall be the duty of the employer to supply the District Commissioner with a statement in the prescribed form 35 setting forth the service of the apprentice.

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(2) The District Commissioner shall forthwith endorse a note of the termination on the registered

contract of apprenticeship and on every copy thereof submitted to him for that purpose by any of the 40 parties to the contract.

34. On being satisfied that an apprentice has duly certificate of completed his apprenticeship the appropriate local completion of completed his apprenticeship the appropriate local apprenticeship. Committee or, if there is no such Committee, the Cf. 1946, No. 4, District Commissioner shall supply to the apprentice s. 21 a certificate in the prescribed form that the apprentice has duly completed his apprenticeship.

35. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no Restriction of employer shall employ any apprentice who is under the hours of young apprentices.

age of eighteen years:-

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(a) For more than forty hours (excluding mealtimes) in any week: or

(b) For more than eight hours (excluding mealtimes) in any one day: or

(c) On shift-work at any time before the hour of seven o'clock in the morning of any day or after the hour of six o'clock in the evening of any day.

(2) If provision is made in the apprenticeship order for the employment of apprentices under the age of 20 eighteen years on overtime, it shall be lawful for the employer in accordance with that provision to employ an apprentice who is under the age of eighteen years beyond the working-hours and times prescribed in the last preceding subsection, but not beyond the limits 25 prescribed in the apprenticeship order.

(3) If an apprentice is employed in a factory within the meaning of the Factories Act, 1946, or if 1946, No. 43 his employment is subject to the provisions of any other Act, the provisions of the Factories Act, 1946, or of 30 that other Act relating to working hours and times and

overtime shall be duly complied with.

36. (1) Where the employer of any apprentice is Protection of adjudicated a bankrupt, or, being a company, is wound apprentices in certain cases. up, or is being wound up, or where a receiver has been certain cases. 35 appointed, and the apprentice is thereby deprived of the s, 14 employment to which he is entitled by his contract of apprenticeship, the Court of Arbitration, on application by the apprentice, may, in its discretion, order payment to the apprentice of an amount not exceeding three months' wages in respect of any period intervening between the time when the apprentice is so deprived of employment and the time when he receives other employment as an apprentice in the same industry.

Cf. ibid., s. 16

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. I, p. 540 1933, No. 29

Any such amount shall constitute a debt payable to the apprentice by the employer, and the debt shall rank equally for payment with the debts mentioned in paragraph (d) of section one hundred and twenty of the Bankruptcy Act, 1908, or in subsection one of section two hundred and fifty-eight of the Companies Act, 1933, as the case may require, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in either of those acts.

(2) Nothing in the last preceding subsection shall so operate as to prevent the Supreme Court ordering 10 payment to or for the use of any apprentice of any sum pursuant to subsection two of section eighty-three of the Bankruptcy Act, 1908, in addition to the amount

pavable under this section.

Suspension and discharge of apprentices for misconduct, &c. Cf. 1930, No. 25,

37. (1) In any case where an apprentice so mis- 15 conducts himself or proves himself to be so incapable that if he were an employee other than an apprentice it would be reasonable for his employer to discharge him, the employer may suspend him and apply to the appropriate local Committee or, where there is no such 20 Committee, to the District Commissioner for leave to discharge him.

(2) Every such application to a Committee or to the District Commissioner shall be made within three days after the apprentice is so suspended, and when 25 such application is duly made the employer may withhold any wages accruing due to the apprentice in respect

of the period of suspension.

(3) The Committee or the District Commissioner, as the case may be, shall consider the application after 30 giving the employer, the apprentice, and his parent or guardian (if any) an opportunity to be heard, and may grant or refuse leave to discharge the apprentice.

(4) Where any such leave is granted the employer shall be entitled to discharge the apprentice as from 35 the date on which he was suspended, and in any such case the contract of apprenticeship shall be deemed to

be cancelled.

(5) Where leave as aforesaid is refused the Committee or the District Commissioner, as the case may 40 be, may make such order as it thinks fit with respect to payment of wages to the apprentice in respect of the

period of his suspension. If no such order is made, the employer shall pay to the apprentice all wages that would have been payable to him in respect of the period

of suspension had he not been suspended.

5 (6) The employer or the apprentice may, within seven days after the Committee or the District Commissioner has granted or refused leave to discharge the apprentice, appeal in the prescribed form to a Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the Magistrate's Court nearest to the place where the apprentice is employed. A copy of the appeal shall within the same period be served on the apprentice or the employer, as the case may require, and also on the Committee, or the District Commissioner, as the case may be.

(7) The appeal shall be heard at such time and place as the Magistrate appoints, and the Magistrate's

decision shall be final and conclusive.

(8) If the employer, notwithstanding that leave to discharge the apprentice has been refused by the 20 Apprenticeship Committee or the District Commissioner, or, in case of appeal, by the Magistrate, discharges the apprentice, such discharge shall for all purposes be conclusive proof of a breach by the employer of the

contract of apprenticeship.

25 (9) If the Magistrate in determining any appeal as aforesaid decides in favour of the apprentice, he may fix an amount that shall be payable to the apprentice as damages for breach of the contract of apprenticeship in the event of the employer discharging him contrary 30 to the determination of the Magistrate, or the Magistrate may, in lieu of fixing any such amount, grant leave to the apprentice to make to him ex parte an application for the fixing thereof in the event of the employer discharging the apprentice contrary to the 35 determination of the Magistrate. Any such amount shall be in addition to the amount of wages payable in respect of the period of suspension.

(10) The amount (if any) so fixed by the Magistrate shall, in the event of the apprentice being unlawfully 40 discharged, constitute a debt due to the apprentice by the employer, and may be recovered in any Court of

competent jurisdiction.

(11) The Magistrate may hear and determine any appeal under this section, either in open Court or in Chambers, as he may think fit, and may make such order as to costs as he may think fit.

(12) Where an employer, without proceeding in 5 accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section, discharges or purports to discharge an apprentice or, having suspended him, does not within three days thereafter make application as aforesaid for leave to discharge him, the apprentice, within seven days after 10 the discharge or within ten days after the suspension, as the case may be, may apply to the local Committee, or the District Commissioner, as the case may require, for relief from the discharge or suspension, and thereupon the provisions of this section 15 shall apply in like manner as if the employer had proceeded in accordance with subsection one hereof.

Employer of apprentices to keep wages and time book. *Cf.* 1930, No. 25, s. 17

38. (1) Every employer of an apprentice or apprentices shall at all times keep in the prescribed form a record (called the wages and time book) showing, in 20 the case of each apprentice—

(a) His name:

(b) His age:

(c) The date of commencement of his employment as an apprentice:

(d) The kind of work on which he is usually employed:

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(e) The hours of his employment during each week;

(f) The wages paid each week; and

(g) Such other particulars as are prescribed.

(2) The wages and time book in use for the time being and any such book used within the preceding two years shall at all times be open to inspection by the District Commissioner or any Inspector of Factories.

Copy of apprenticeship order to be exhibited. Cf. 1930, No. 25, s. 18

39. In every case where an apprentice to whom an apprenticeship order under this Act applies is employed in any premises, the employer shall affix and keep affixed in some conspicuous place in the premises, where it may be easily read by the apprentice, a copy of the order, together with a copy of any 40 amendments thereof. A District Commissioner or any Inspector of Factories may require the employer to move the copy of the order and amendments to some other place in the premises, or to affix an additional copy of the order and amendments in a place in the premises indicated by the District Commissioner or Inspector.

40. Without prejudice to the generality of the Provision for provisions of section forty-three of this Act, it is hereby lodging-allowances for declared that regulations may be made under that apprentices. section providing for the payment to any apprentice Cf. 1946, No. 4, 5 who is obliged to live away from home in order to learn his trade of such amount by way of lodgingallowance as may be prescribed by the regulations. Lodging-allowances payable pursuant to the regulations shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament 10 for the purpose.

41. (1) It shall be the duty of the Commissioner Commissioner and the District Commissioners to ensure that the pro- and District Commissioners visions of this Act and the regulations thereunder, and to ensure of any order of the Court or of a Committee, and of compliance with this Act. 15 any contract of apprenticeship, are duly complied with. Cf. 1923, No. 41,

(2) Any breach of a contract of apprenticeship, or s.9 of an order of the Court or of a Committee, shall be

deemed to be a breach of this Act.

(3) Proceedings for a breach of this Act shall be 20 taken in the same manner as proceedings for a breach of an award, and all the provisions of the Industrial see Reprint Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, relating to the of Statutes, Vol. III, p. 939 enforcement of awards shall, with the necessary modi-

fications, apply accordingly:

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Provided that proceedings in respect of failure to obtain, pursuant to section nineteen of this Act, the consent of a local Committee, or where there is no Committee, a District Commissioner, to a contract of apprenticeship, or failure to register a contract of apprenticeship may be taken at any time during the employment of the apprentice pursuant to the contract, or within six months after the termination of the employment.

(4) Without affecting any other remedies for the 35 recovery of moneys payable under a contract of apprenticeship to which this Act applies, proceedings for the recovery of any such moneys may be taken in the same manner as proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, for the recovery 40 of moneys due to a worker under an award or agreement, and all the provisions of that Act relating to the recovery of moneys due to workers under awards or agreements shall, with the necessary modifications. apply accordingly:

New

Provided that nothing in section one hundred and forty-one of that Act shall apply in respect of proceedlings taken under this section.

(5) All proceedings for a breach of this Act may be taken by a District Commissioner or an Inspector of Factories:

Provided that any party to a contract of apprenticeship may take proceedings for a breach thereof.

(6) Every employer who commits a breach of this 10 Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds in respect of each breach, and every other person who commits a breach of this Act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five pounds in respect of each breach:

Provided that if the breach is a continuing one every 15 employer shall be liable to a further fine not exceeding five pounds, and every other person to a further fine not exceeding ten shillings, for each day on which the breach is continued after the first day.

(7) Every person who induces or procures any party 20 to a contract of apprenticeship to commit a breach of this Act, or who otherwise incites, instigates, aids, or abets a breach of this Act, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

(8) For the purpose of ascertaining if the pro- 25 visions of this Act are being complied with the Commissioner, any District Commissioner, or Inspector of Factories may—

(a) Enter, inspect, and examine at all reasonable hours by day or night any premises in or 30 about which he has reasonable cause to believe that an apprentice is employed:

(b) Inquire into the training, progress, and welfare of any apprentice:

(c) Take with him a constable to assist him in the 35 execution of the powers prescribed in this section.

42. The Court, or the Commissioner, or a District Commissioner may call upon any employer or other person to furnish such information in his possession as 40 may be required for the proper administration of this Act, and any employer or other person failing to comply with any such request shall be deemed to have committed a breach of this Act.

Court or Commissioner may require reports. Cf. 1923, No. 41,

43. (1) The Governor-General from time to time, Regulations. by Order in Council, may make regulations for any Cf. 1923, No. 41, purpose for which regulations are contemplated or s. 22 required by this Act, and may make all such other 5 regulations as may in his opinion be necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due administration thereof.

- (2) Any breach of any such regulations shall be deemed to be a breach of this Act.
- 10 44. (1) The enactments specified in the Schedule Repeals and hereto are hereby repealed.
- (2) All offices, appointments, regulations, registers, records, certificates, apprenticeship orders, permits, instruments, and generally all acts of authority which 15 originated under any of the enactments hereby repealed and are subsisting or in force on the commencement of this Act shall enure for the purposes of this Act as fully and effectually as if they had originated under the corresponding provisions of this Act, and accord-20 ingly shall, where necessary, be deemed to have so originated.
- (3) All matters and proceedings commenced under any such enactment or in progress on the commencement of this Act may be continued, completed, and 25 enforced under this Act.

New

45. (1) This Act shall be administered by the Act to be Department of Labour established under the Labour Department Act, 1908.

administered by Labour

(2) Section two of the Labour Department Amend- See Reprint ment Act, 1936, shall apply in all respects as if this of Statutes, vol. VIII, Act were one of the Acts specified in the First Schedule p. 1175 to that Act.

 30°

(3) So much of the First Schedule to the Labour Repeal. 35 Department Amendment Act, 1936, as relates to the Apprentices Act, 1923, is hereby repealed.

Schedule.

SCHEDULE

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

1908, No. 36-

Master and Apprentice Act, 1908, Part I. (Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 559.)

1920, No. 36—

Master and Apprentice Amendment Act, 1920. (Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 570.)

1924, No. 53-

Master and Apprentice Amendment Act, 1924. (Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 576.)

1923, No. 41-

Apprentices Act, 1923.

(Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 576.)

1925, No. 36—

Apprentices Amendment Act, 1925. (Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 588.)

1927, No. 28-

Apprentices Amendment Act, 1927. (Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 590.)

1930, No. 25-

Apprentices Amendment Act, 1930.

(Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 590.)

1946, No. 4—

Apprentices Amendment Act, 1946.