

(1.) WELLINGTON SEAMEN.

In the Wellington Industrial District.—In the matter of an industrial dispute between the Wellington Branch of the Federated Seamen's Union and J. H. Cock and Co., of Nelson; A. H. Turnbull and Co., of Wellington; C. W. Turner, of Christchurch; and Levin and Co., of Wellington.

The Clerk of Awards, on the 8th day of February, 1897, convened a meeting of the Board of Conciliation, to be held at the Jury Room, Supreme Court Buildings, Wellington, on Thursday, the 18th day of February, 1897, at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of inquiring into and investigating a dispute, the particulars of which are filed in the office of the Clerk of Awards and numbered 2/97.

The Board subsequently met on that date, and there were present: Mr. Cock, as representing J. H. Cock and Co.; Mr. A. H. Turnbull, as representing A. H. Turnbull and Co.; Mr. C. W. Turner; and Mr. A. E. Pearce, of the firm of Levin and Co. (Limited), who appeared and consented to that company being made party to the proceedings, though not originally summoned. And on behalf of the Wellington Branch of the Federated Seamen's Union, Mr. Jones, their secretary, and during a portion of the time Mr. Hindmarsh, their president.

The parties were heard at length, and a number of witnesses were called on behalf of the Wellington Branch of the Federated Seamen's Union. There was also before the Board a report of the proceedings in a dispute between the Dunedin Board of the Federated Seamen's Union and the Union Steam Shipping Company and Mr. Keith Ramsay, as well as a newspaper report giving the judgment of Mr. Justice Williams, as President of the Court of Arbitration, sitting in Christchurch, in the matter of an industrial dispute in which the bootmakers were concerned. After due and careful consideration of the facts laid before them the Board beg to recommend as follows:—

1. That the wages of seamen and firemen be raised by 10s. per month per man, to commence from the 1st day of March, 1897.

2. That overtime remain as at present.
3. That Boxing Day be added to the holidays already allowed.
4. That in view of what came out in the evidence, the Board is strongly of opinion that one and the same day should be set apart as Labour Day throughout the colony, and that the Government be approached in order that this suggestion be given effect to, by legislation or otherwise.
5. That employers shall employ members of the Federated Seamen's Union in preference to non-members, provided there are members of the union who are equally qualified with non-members to perform the particular work required to be done, and are ready and willing to undertake it when non-members are employed.
6. That a representative of the said union be permitted to visit members on board ship, except during working-hours.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 1897.

W. H. QUICK, Chairman.