

(9.) CHRISTCHURCH FURNITURE TRADES.

Board of Conciliation, Canterbury District.—In the matter of “ The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1894 ” and the Acts amending the same ; and in the matter of the disputes between the Christchurch Furniture Trades Union and H. Atkinson, W. Bates, the D.I.C., W. Taplin, W. Richards, A. Peppler, W. Strange and Co., F. Dawson, A. J. White, J. Young, W. Stevens, Page and Edmonds, Jacobsen and Macdonald, J. Ballantyne and Co., J. Mitchell, H. Fuhrman, J. Sykes, W. A. Finlayson, Laurence and Kircher, W. Jenkins.

The Board of Conciliation for the Canterbury District, -having taken into consideration the above disputes and having taken evidence and heard arguments, recommend that the conditions of employment between the employers and workmen be as follows :—

1. That forty-four hours constitute a week's work ; and that the half-holiday be observed on Saturday, provided that the committee referred to in clause 7 shall have power to appoint any other day for any workshop on sufficient cause being shown.

2. The minimum wages shall be : For cabinetmakers, upholsterers, turners, frame-makers, and carvers, 8s. 6d. ; polishers, 8s. ; mattress-makers, 7s. 6d.

3. Piecework according to log agreed upon. Log to be added to or amended by the committee proposed by clause 7.

4. Overtime as agreed to, viz. : Time and a quarter to midnight, and double time after that, and on Sunday, Good Friday, and Christmas Day.

5. Holidays to be New Year's Day, Easter Monday, Queen's Birthday, Show Day, Anniversary Day, and Boxing Day. Men working on those days to be paid time and a quarter for eight hours, and after that time and a half till midnight, and after that double time.

6. *Apprentices.*—No arrangement in force at the date of the filing of the dispute herein shall be interfered with. All apprentices shall serve five years. Wages to be : First year, 6s. ; second year, 9s. ; third year, 12s. ; fourth year, 15s. ; fifth year, £1. The proportion to be one apprentice to every three men or portion thereof. The proportion to be gauged by full employment of journeymen for two-thirds full time during the previous six months ; but with the exception that, in the case of upholsterers, a second apprentice can be allowed as soon as the first has served three years.

7. Men who are considered to be unable to earn the minimum wage, shall be paid such lesser sum (if any) as shall be fixed by a committee, consisting of three persons nominated by the employers and three persons nominated by the union, and if they cannot agree by the Chairman of the Board of Conciliation.

8. Employers in employing labour shall not discriminate between unionists and non-unionists ; both shall work together in harmony and under the same conditions and shall receive equal pay for equal work. The employers shall not, in the employment or dismissal of hands, or in the conduct of their business, do anything directly or indirectly to operate to the injury of the union.

The recommendation to come into force on this date, and remain in force till the 31st day of December, 1898.

Dated this 15th day of November, 1897.

H. J. BESWICK, Chairman.