

(40.) CHRISTCHURCH PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS.

SIR,—

Christchurch, 30th May, 1899.

No. 206.—In the matter of the Christchurch Plumbers and Gasfitters' Industrial Union and Hement Brothers and others.

Messrs. England and Martin produced proof that they were not interested, and by consent their names were struck out.

The Board's recommendation is that the following terms and conditions be agreed to:—

1. The minimum wages of journeymen plumbers to be 10s. per day of eight hours. Certificate of competency to be the possession

of Drainage Board's certificate. Gasfitters' wages, when employed only as such, 9s. per day.

2. Improvers to be admitted, and their wages to be a minimum rate of 8s. per day of eight hours. A committee to be appointed of three members from each (employers and employés); said committee to have power to decide when such workmen shall cease to work as improvers. In the event of the committee failing to agree, the decision to rest with the Chairman for the time being of the Conciliation Board.

3. Overtime to be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., time and a half from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight, double time from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. On Saturdays, time and a half from 12 noon to 5 p.m.; from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Monday, double time. Double time on Christmas Day. Time and a half on all public holidays, as follows: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Queen's Birthday, Boxing Day, Show Day, and Anniversary Day. Any work required to be done to employers' plant or works during holidays or night-time to be paid at ordinary rates only.

4. Any workman working up country to be provided with reasonable accommodation, and to be paid all travelling-expenses. To be paid ordinary time in going to and returning from such work. The suburban limit for men walking to their work shall be one mile from the Town Belt nearest the place at which the work is being carried on; beyond that distance employers to find transport. Workmen to be at the shop on pay-day within the recognised working-hours to receive their pay, or be paid on the job, at employers' option.

5. Employers to find men with soldering-bolts, iron pipe, fitting-tools, metal pots, plumbing-irons, mandrils, files, and chisel-bars.

6. That the proportion of apprentices to journeymen shall be one to every three journeymen or fraction thereof; such journeymen to have been employed at the establishment in which such apprentices shall be taken for the preceding six months on or at least two-thirds full time. Apprentices shall serve an apprenticeship of five years, and shall be indentured; this condition not to apply to persons at present serving without indentures. Apprentices shall be paid 5s. per week for the first year, with an increase at the commencement of each subsequent year's service of 5s. per week until the commencement of the fifth year, when the increase shall be 10s. per week. All apprentices or lads employed, whether now serving an apprenticeship or not, and whether indentured or not, shall be paid the minimum rate of wages above mentioned. The proportion of improvers to be one improver to every three journeymen, an improver being one in receipt of not less than 8s. per day.

7. Preference of employment to be given to union men, provided they are equally qualified with non-members to do the work. The

union to keep an employment-book in a notified place, and such book is to be open to the inspection of the employers.

An industrial agreement embodying the above conditions to be entered into on or before the 7th June, 1899, and to operate for a period of two years, expiring 7th June, 1901.

I have, &c.,

A. H. TURNBULL, Chairman.

The Clerk of Awards, Christchurch.

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Board of Conciliation, Canterbury District,

Christchurch, 17th July, 1899.

SIR,—

No. 206.—Christchurch Plumbers and Gasfitters' Industrial Union and Messrs. Hement Brothers and others. I have to report that in the above case the Board has been unable to bring about any settlement of the dispute.

I am, &c.,

A. H. TURNBULL, Chairman.

The Clerk of Awards, Supreme Court, Christchurch.

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