

(19.) AUCKLAND CURRIERS.

Before the Board of Conciliation, Northern Industrial District.—

In the matter of an industrial dispute between Ireland Bros. and others and the Auckland Curriers' Industrial Union, and of a reference thereof for settlement.

The Board, having heard evidence in the above case, recommend as follows:—

1. That the working-hours for curriers shall not exceed forty-eight per week; the week's work to end at 12 o'clock noon on Saturday.

2. That all journeymen curriers other than those engaged on piecework rates shall receive a weekly wage of not less than £2 10s. per week.

3. That all wages shall be paid in full.

4. That all overtime shall be paid at the rate of time and a quarter.

5. That only two classes of workers shall be recognised—viz., journeyman curriers and apprentices, except as provided in clause 9.

6. That apprentices be employed at the rate of one to every three journeymen or fraction thereof, provided such journeymen

have been employed two-thirds full time for the previous six months. That all such apprentices be legally indentured for a term of five years, three months' probation being allowed in each case, which three months shall be included in the term of apprenticeship. The rate of pay to be 5s. per week for the first year, 10s. per week for the second year, 15s. per week for the third year, £1 5s. per week for the fourth year, and £1 10s. per week for the fifth year; but that youths at present engaged in the trade, and not indentured shall be allowed to complete the balance of their term on becoming legally indentured to any employers.

7. That no youth shall be employed as an improver after having served five years at the trade. Any case of hardship to an apprentice, such as an employer's retiring from business, dying, or otherwise, by which he is unable to complete his full term, then such apprentice may be bound again to another employer to complete his full term of five years' service.

8. That no unskilled labour be employed to do any part of a currier's work, except at machines, and dubbing and colour-making, and handling sumacs.

9. That in the case of any currier who, from old age or infirmity, may be unable to earn the minimum rate of wages it shall be referred to a committee, consisting of two members of the Auckland Curriers' Union of Workers and two members of the Master Tanners and Curriers' Union of Employers, to decide. Should this committee fail to come to an agreement, then the matter shall be referred to the Chairman of the Conciliation Board, whose decision shall be final.

10. That whether engaged on piecework or weekly wage, all curriers shall receive a fair share of general current work.

11. That employers shall employ members of the Workmen's Union in preference to non-members, provided there are members of the Workmen's Union who are equally qualified with non-members to perform the particular work required to be done, and ready and willing to perform it. When non-members are employed there shall be no distinction between the members and non-members; both shall work in harmony, and both shall work under the same conditions, and receive equal pay for equal work. Any dispute under this clause shall be decided as provided in clause 9.

12. Employers shall have the option of employing their workmen by the system of weekly wage or piecework, and every employer employing workmen to execute by piecework shall pay to such workmen the prices hereunder specified for such piecework, according to the work done—that is to say,—

[The schedule of prices is not published.]

*Miscellaneous.*—All classes of work not included in the foregoing bill of prices, such as tweed horse-hide, horse butts, strained and brown straps, kangaroo-kip, rigging, rough skirting, stained and black grain calfskins, tweed calf, &c., to be done at the day work

rate. No piecework carrier to be expected to make dubbing, handle sumac, and such necessary odd jobs about a currying shop.

13. That this industrial agreement shall be for a period of two years—viz., from the 2nd October, 1899, to the 31st September, 1901; and that the penalty for any breach of this industrial agreement be any sum not exceeding £10.

A. H. COLLINS, Chairman.

Supreme Court, Auckland, 25th September, 1899.

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SIR,— Supreme Court, Auckland, 25th September, 1899.

In the matter of an industrial dispute between Ireland Brothers and others and the Auckland Curriers' Union, and of a reference thereof for settlement: The Board of Conciliation, having heard evidence in the above case, and failed to effect a settlement, refers the same to the Court of Arbitration.

A. H. COLLINS, Chairman.

To the Clerk of Awards, Auckland.

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