

(77.) OTAGO IRONWORKERS.

In the matter of "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900"; and in the matter of a dispute between the Otago Ironworkers' Industrial Union of Workers and the Otago Iron-rolling Mills Company, of Burnside.

THE Conciliation Board for the Industrial District of Otago and Southland, having received the necessary proofs establishing its jurisdiction in the above matter, and having heard the parties and their evidence, and having carefully inquired into the said dispute, recommends as follows:—

That the parties to the said dispute enter into an industrial agreement for a period commencing immediately after the expiry of one month from the filing hereof and enduring until the 30th day of November, 1901, the agreement to contain the following provisions:—

1. *Labourers.*—The hours worked by labourers shall be forty-eight per week, made up as follows: Eight hours and three-quarters for the first five days, and four hours and a quarter on Saturday. They shall receive a minimum wage at the rate of 7s. per day.

2. *Stocktaker, &c.*—The following hands shall be subject to the same conditions as labourers—viz., stocktaker, firemen at boilers, catcher at shears, scrap-cutter at shears; and the following hands shall be subject to the same conditions, save that they receive a minimum wage of 7s. 6d.—viz., engine and hammer drivers and shearman (finished iron).

3. *Shifts.*—Where practicable the shifts shall change in rotation week about. Shifts to be worked as follows: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The management may vary these hours, provided it shall not do so unreasonably, and that its action shall be subject to clause 9 hereof.

4. *Pieceworkers.*—The following minimum wages shall be paid for eight-hour shifts: Ball furnace—Ball-furnace man, 4s. 3d. per ton; forge roller, 1s. 0½d. per ton; catcher (forge rolls), 8½d. per ton; hooking and dragging, 7½d. per ton. Finished iron—Furnace-man, 4s. 10d. per ton; head roller, 1s. 7½d. per ton; bolter-up, 1s. 4½d. per ton; bolter-down, 1s. 4½d. per ton; catcher, 8d. per ton.

5. The shinglers' wages are to be settled by arbitration under clause 9 if Mr. William Smellie ceases to be employed.

6. All work done by shift-workers or pieceworkers beyond their ordinary shift shall be considered overtime. Overtime shall be paid as follows: First two hours, time and a quarter; after the first two hours, time and a half; work done on Sundays and holidays, double time. Pieceworkers to receive an increase of tonnage equivalent to above overtime.

7. The following holidays shall be observed: New Year's Day, 2nd January, Good Friday, Easter Monday, the King's Birthday, Labour Day, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day.

8. Unionists and non-unionists shall work in harmony with each other, and shall receive the same rates of pay.

9. Any dispute as to matters arising out of the above conditions shall be settled by a joint committee of the employers and employees, each side appointing an equal number, and, failing agreement, shall be referred to the Chairman of the Board.

Dated this 9th day of May, 1901.

FREDK. CHAPMAN, Chairman.

The Board has had considerable difficulty in fixing the wages for an eight-hours shift for pieceworkers, a difficulty which will be understood by the parties who have attempted in vain to adjust the matter themselves. The Board strongly recommends that the parties will test the matter for the short period fixed for the operation of this recommendation, as a great deal seems to depend upon the assumption made by the Board that men working eight hours only can produce a higher hourly tonnage than men working twelve hours.

The Board holds that it has no jurisdiction to fix the wages of under-hands, as they are not employed by the employers under this reference.

INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT.

This agreement, made in pursuance of "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," between the Otago Ironworkers' Industrial Union of Workers and the Otago Iron-rolling Mills Company, to observe and carry out the conditions of labour and pay the prices and wages contained in the attached statement of wages, and marked "A." This agreement to come into force on the 15th June, 1901, and continue in force until the 15th day of November, 1901.

TREVOR SAMUEL ATKINSON,

President, Otago Ironworkers' Industrial Union
of Workers.

T. H. SMELLIE.

Witness to signatures—R. Ferguson.

A.

Statement of Wages and Conditions of Labour referred to in the attached Agreement.

In the matter of a dispute between the Otago Ironworkers' Industrial Union of Workers and the Otago Iron-rolling Mills Company.

The following rates of pay have been agreed upon by the parties concerned in the above dispute:—

Ball Furnace.—The following minimum wages shall be paid for twelve-hour shifts: Ball-furnace man, 4s. per ton; forge roller, 1s. per ton; catcher (forge rolls), 8d. per ton; hooking and dragging, 7d. per ton.

Finished Iron.—The following minimum wages shall be paid for twelve-hour shifts: Furnaceman, 4s. 6d. per ton; head roller, 1s. 6d. per ton; bolter-up, 1s. 3d. per ton; bolter-down, 1s. 3d. per ton; catcher, 7d. per ton.

Labourers, 7s. per eight hours; stocktaker, 7s. per eight hours; fireman at boilers, 7s. per eight hours; engine and hammer drivers, 7s. 6d. per eight hours; shearman (finished iron), 7s. 6d. per eight hours; catcher at shears, 7s. per eight hours; scrap-cutter at shears, 7s. per eight hours.

(78.) NIGHTCAPS (OTAGO) COAL-MINERS.

THIS industrial agreement, made in pursuance of "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," this 11th day of May, 1901, between the Otago Coal-miners' Industrial Union of Workers and the Nightcaps Coal Company (Limited), in the Industrial District of Otago and Southland. Agreement to continue in force until the 1st day of December, 1901.

1. Balloting for all places as usual.

2. All ordinary places worked by one man shall be paid for at the rate of 3s. 6d. per ton. Man and youth, 3s. 7½d. per ton; in special places, two men, 3s. 9d. per ton. Man and youth in ordinary places, 3s. 6d. per ton.

3. Three boxes as filled at present to constitute a ton. Should a dispute arise through any box which the manager may consider improperly filled the miner to have a right to weigh such box.

4. Ordinary places to be 15 ft. wide and 8 ft. high, with a margin of 1 ft. in width and height.

5. Splitting pillars to be treated as ordinary places.

6. Pillars worked by lifts or strips 9 ft. wide, with loose end, 3s. 3d. per ton; if the miner has to remove muck owing to waste-workings, ordinary rates to be paid.

7. Drawing and saving props in pillar-work shall be paid at the rate of 1s. 6d. per hour.

8. Shift wages shall be 10s. per shift.