

WESTLAND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

(725.) GREY VALLEY WORKERS.—AGREEMENT.

Agreement between Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers and Greymouth—Point Elizabeth Railway and Coal Company.

THIS agreement, made in pursuance of "The Industrial, Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," and its amendments, this 23rd day of December, 1903, between the Greymouth—Point Elizabeth Railway and Coal Company (Limited) Industrial Union of Employers and the Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers.

The said parties to this agreement agree as follows in regard to work and labour at the Brunner collieries:—

1. All coal to be weighed gross, and to be paid for as follows: (a.) Fast places in solid coal 2s. 4d. per ton. Two fast places in pillar not to mean solid coal. (b.) Open ends 2s. per ton. Thirteen hundredweight to be the limit of coal put in any one truck.

All unclaimed boxes to go to checkweight fund.

2. *Wet Places.*—Eleven shillings to be paid for six-hour shift where men require to stand in water, or where water is dripping on them. Men working in wet places to have their fair share of trucks during the time they are at work.

3. *Shift Wages*.—Getting coal, 11s. per shift; workmen to have the right to claim payment at tonnage rates by notifying same at commencement of any period.

4. *Shift men*, permanent, per shift, 10s. 6d.

5. *Shift men*, casual, per shift, 11s. “Casual” to mean when a workman is taken from his own place and sent to work somewhere else.

6. *Carpenters*, per shift, 11s.

7. *Engine-drivers*, stationary, per shift, 10s. 6d.

8. *Firemen* to be paid 9s. 6d. per shift.

9. *Outside Bays*.—3s. per shift for the first three months; 4s. per shift for the succeeding six months, with an advance of 6d. per shift for six months thereafter.

10. *Trucking by Miners*.—Miners to truck their own coal up to 50 yards; from 50 yards to 75 yards, extra, per ton, 2d.; for each 25 yards or portion of 25 yards after 75 yards, extra, per ton, 3d.

11. *Truckers*.—Trucking to be by contract or shift wages. Each and every trucker to share the same contract, and to be paid according to position *pro rata*. If tenders are called for contract members of the union to have preference.

12. *Falling Stone*.—If from this cause workman cannot make wages, then he is to be paid shift wages—viz., 11s. per day. No deductions shall be made from the workmen’s earnings of any day to make up for any day on which the earnings did not amount to casual shift wages—viz., 11s. per shift.

13. *Fireclay* to be paid 11 hundredweight for 10-hundredweight truck, at rate of 2s. 6d. per ton, or wages not less than 12s. per shift.

14. *Yardage*.—Inclines, levels, and slits, 6s. per yard. Any pair of men driving a level shall have the right to claim first incline, and any pair driving an incline shall have the right to claim first bord.

15. *Cavilling*.—All coal-places to be cavilled for every twelve weeks; first cavilled out to be the first cavilled in. Miners to have the right to appoint inspectors to examine places before being cavilled for.

16. *Timbering*.—(1.) Sets of timber up to 6 ft. high, 2s. 6d. per set. (2.) From 6 ft. to 8 ft. high, 3s. 6d. per set. (3.) Inclines, levels, and slits, not less than 3s. 6d. per set. (4.) Everything over 8 ft. high or more than 8 in. through, measured in centre, to be deemed special sets; price of special sets to be arranged between manager and workman, and, if they cannot agree, to be referred to the manager and committee or secretary of the union with a view of settlement. (5.) Sets requiring close laths on top, 1s. extra. (6.) Company to provide all laths.

17. *Pigsties*.—Each, 5s.; filling in pigsty to be extra.

18. *Timber back from the Road*.—Miners to keep all timber 12 ft. back from the end of rails; all timber over that distance back from rail-ends to be kept by the company or paid for at shift wages.

19. Company to lift all bottoms.

20. *Holidays*.—Every Saturday afternoon, 17th, 18th, and 26th of March, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Empire Day, King's Birthday, Labour Day, and from the 24th day of December, 1903, to the 4th January, 1904.

21. Preference of employment to be given to unionists, provided union secretary supplies manager with list of unionists.

22. Should any matter or dispute arise during the term of this agreement which is not herein provided for, the same shall be referred to the company's manager and the committee of the union or its secretary with a view of coming to terms in settlement of such matter in dispute.

The provisions of this agreement to continue in force for one year commencing from the 14th day of December, 1903, and terminating on the 13th day of December, 1904.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands, this 23rd day of December, 1903, at Brunner, in the Colony of New Zealand.

The common seal of the Greymouth—Point Elizabeth Railway and Coal Company (Limited) Industrial Union of Employers was hereunto affixed in the presence of—

[Seal.]

E. G. PILCHER, Secretary.

Witness—C. Miller, accountant, Wellington.

For the Grey Valley Industrial Union of Workers—

[Seal.]

G. NEWTON, President.

L. FREDK. NYBERG, Secretary.

Witness—Thomas H. Smith, miner.