

944. INVERCARGILL AND OAMARU PAINTERS.—APPLICATION FOR AWARD.

In the Court of Arbitration, Otago and Southland District (Invercargill).—Dunedin Painters' Union *v.* Master Painters of Invercargill and Oamaru.

REPORT OF CASE.

A HEARING of this application for an award had been appointed to take place at Invercargill.

*Mr. William Scott* now objected to the hearing so far as Invercargill was concerned, as only five firms were cited. There were six other employers in business in Invercargill, and others in Gore, Winton, Orepuki, Mataura, &c., who had not been cited. These competed in intermediate towns, of which there were several and, in the country. As a matter of fact, they tendered against each other.

THE PRESIDENT: After the decisions of the Court in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Milton on this subject, it seems extraordinary that this had not been attended to.

*Mr. Scott* said that it was a common belief here that all would be bound, whether cited or not, otherwise the employers would have objected sooner.

THE PRESIDENT: The decisions have been published in the *Journal* of the Labour Department, and should be well known.

*Mr. Breen*: The proposed conditions were substantially the Dunedin conditions, and there only Dunedin and suburbs, Port Chalmers, and Mosgiel were covered; yet they heard of no difficulty through competition from the country.

The Court ordered a conference between the parties, ordering them to attend in the afternoon and state the result. This was reported to have proved abortive. (Report not dated; received 27th September, 1905.)

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