

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

(1500.) OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND MUSTERERS. — RECOMMENDATIONS.

Under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1905."—In the matter of an industrial dispute between the Otago and Southland Musterers' Industrial Union of Workers and the Otago and Southland sheepowners.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF CONCILIATION, OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND DISTRICT.

THE Board, having considered the evidence adduced on behalf of the union, which was of a very meagre nature, and notwithstanding that they were hampered in their deliberations by the absence of any evidence on behalf of the employers, make the following recommendations :—

1. Leading shepherds, whether of longwool or merino flocks, where two or more shepherds are kept shall be paid not less than £85 per annum.

2. Ordinary shepherds of all longwool or merino flocks shall be paid not less than £70 per annum. These rates to apply only to men engaged exclusively as shepherds, and not to apply to farm labourers who may be occasionally employed in shepherding.

3. In all cases the employer shall supply the men with sufficient wholesome food, including butter, in addition to the above rates.

4. When musterers are engaged to muster sheep, whether merinos or longwools, for any purpose, they shall be paid not less than 10s. per day, and no time shall be taken off for wet weather or other cause over which the men have no control.

5. Musterers shall, where practicable, be supplied with good dry sleeping-accommodation on the hills, and provision shall be made for the protection of all bedding from wet during transit and while in use.

6. Any shepherd having less than a yearly engagement, or musterer employed in snow-raking, shall be paid at the rate of 10s. per day.

7. Good wholesome food and butter shall be supplied to men engaged in mustering or snow-raking in addition to their wages.

8. Before commencing any muster where two or more shall be employed, it shall be the duty of the musterers to appoint one of their number to represent the men as between the employer and the union. All complaints shall be in writing, and shall be given by such representative to the employer or received by him from the employer, as the case may be, and if the matter in dispute be not settled by the employer and the representative of the men, the party complaining may send a copy of the complaint to the secretary of the union, who shall take such action as the executive may direct. All the men employed in mustering at the time of any such dispute arising shall be bound to observe the conditions of any agreement entered into by such representative and the employer for the settlement of such dispute.

9. So long as any shepherd or musterer of good character is permitted, on payment of not more than 10s. entrance fee and an annual subscription not exceeding 10s. per year, to become a member of the union, preference of employment shall be given to members of the union, if immediately available and equally competent to do the work, over non-unionists.

10. When members of the union and non-members are employed together there shall be no distinction between them; both shall work in harmony, and shall receive equal pay for equal work.

11. No employer shall discriminate against members of the union, and no employer shall in the employment or dismissal of men or otherwise do anything for the purpose of injuring the union, directly or indirectly.

12. No employer shall place any obstacle in the way of any representative of the union in the collection of moneys due to the union from its members, or in canvassing for members, provided that such collection or canvassing is not carried on in working-hours.

This recommendation to come into force on the 1st day of February, 1908, and remain in force until the 1st day of February, 1910.

Dated at Dunedin, this 17th day of December, 1907.

A. BATHGATE, Chairman.