

(1557.) WELLINGTON GAS STOKERS AND COKERS.—AWARD.

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Wellington Industrial District.—In the matter of “The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1905,” and its amendments; and in the matter of an industrial dispute between the Wellington Gas Stokers and Cokers’ Industrial Union of Workers (hereinafter called “the union”) and the Wellington Gas Company (Limited) (hereinafter called “the employer”).

THE Court of Arbitration of New Zealand (hereinafter called “the Court”), having taken into consideration the matter of the above-mentioned dispute, and having heard the union by its representatives duly appointed, and having also heard such of the employers as were represented either in person or by their representatives duly appointed, and having also heard the witnesses called and examined and cross-examined by and on behalf of the said parties respectively, doth hereby order and award:—

That, as between the union and the members thereof and the employers and each and every of them, the terms, conditions, and provisions set out in the schedule hereto and of this award shall be binding upon the union and upon every member thereof and upon the employers and upon each and every of them, and that the said terms, conditions, and provisions shall be deemed to be and they are hereby incorporated in and declared to form part of this award; and, further, that the union and every member thereof and the employers and each and every of them shall respectively do, observe, and perform every matter and thing by this award and by the said terms, conditions, and provisions respectively required to be done, observed, and performed, and shall not do anything in contravention of this award or of the said terms, conditions, and provisions, but shall in all respects abide by and perform the same. And the Court doth hereby further award, order, and declare that any breach of the said terms, conditions, and provisions set out in the schedule hereto shall constitute a breach of this award, and that the sum of £100 shall be the maximum penalty payable by any party or person in respect thereof. And the Court doth further order that this award shall take effect from the 13th day of April, 1908, and shall continue in force until the 13th day of April, 1909.

In witness whereof the seal of the Court of Arbitration hath hereto been put and affixed, and the Judge of the Court hath hereunto set his hand, this 11th day of April, 1908.

W. A. SIM, Judge.

SCHEDULE.

Hours of Work.

1. A full week's work shall consist of seven (7) shifts of eight hours per shift.

Rates of Wages.

2. A leading stoker shall be paid not less than 10s. 6d. per shift, and an ordinary stoker not less than 9s. 9d. per shift.

Holidays.

3. The following shall be the recognised holidays: New Year's Day, Anniversary Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Prince of Wales's Birthday, Labour Day, birthday of the sovereign, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and Picnic Day if observed as a holiday in the gasworks. Work done on these days shall be paid for at the rate of double time.

Number of Retorts.

4. The number of retorts to be drawn and charged in each shift shall not exceed twenty for each stoker.

Trimming Coke.

5. Whenever the stokers are required to do full work on Sundays or holidays the employer shall provide a man to trim coke from the truck-tips at least four (4) hours during the day.

Supply of Shale.

6. A sufficient supply of shale shall be kept in the retort-house to meet the requirements on Sundays, holidays, and nights.

Payment of Wages.

7. All wages shall be paid weekly in cash at the employer's office.

Accommodation.

8. The employer shall provide accommodation, to the satisfaction of the Inspector of Factories, to enable the workers to change their clothes and have their meals apart from the other employees of the employer.

Preference.

9. If the employer shall hereafter engage any worker as a stoker who shall not be a member of the union, and who, within three calendar months after his engagement by the employer shall not become and remain a member of the union, the employer shall dismiss

such worker from its service if requested to do so by the union, provided there is then a member of the union equally qualified to perform the particular work required to be done and ready and willing to undertake the same.

10. The provisions of the foregoing clause shall operate only if and so long as the rules of the union shall permit any person of good character and of sober habits to become a member of the union upon payment of an entrance fee not exceeding 5s., upon a written or verbal application, without ballot or other election, and so continue a member upon payment of subsequent contributions not exceeding 6d. per week.

Strikes.

11. (a.) The union shall do all in its power to prevent any strike by any of the workers affected by this award, and if any strike shall occur in which any members of the union shall take part, such strike shall be *prima facie* evidence that the union has committed a breach of its duty hereunder.

(b.) The Court reserves to itself full power, in the event of any such strike as last mentioned occurring, to suspend, on the application of the employer, the operation of all or any of the provisions of this award for such period as the Court shall think proper.

Scope of Award.

12. This award shall not apply to any employer other than the employer hereinbefore named.

Term of Award.

13. This award shall come into force on the 13th day of April, 1908, and shall remain in force until the 13th day of April, 1909.

In witness whereof the seal of the Court of Arbitration hath hereunto been put and affixed, and the Judge of the said Court hath hereto set his hand, this 11th day of April, 1908.

W. A. SIM, Judge.

MEMORANDUM.

The union asked the Court to insert the following provisions in its award :—

Working of Elevators with Coal.

6. Two shifts shall be worked with the elevators (one night and one day shift), so that no coal shall be let down on the floors of the retort-house.

Cleaning of Bridge-pipes,⁶² &c.

7. The company shall provide at least one man per each shift to clean the bridge and stanchion pipes in retort-house. The evidence showed that the work of the stokers is rendered more difficult by coal being let down on the floors of the retort-house. The company, at the hearing, undertook, as far as practicable, to prevent this in future, and the Court expects this undertaking to be carried out.

With regard to the cleaning of the bridge and stanchion pipes in the retort-house, the Court recommends the company to arrange its work so that, as far as possible, men shall not be taken from the night shift of stokers to do this work.

W. A. SIM, Judge.