

(4274.) MASTERTON FREEZING-WORKS EMPLOYEES.—AGREEMENT.

This industrial agreement, made in pursuance of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908, this 10th day of April, 1916, between the Wellington Freezing-works Employees' Industrial Union of Workers (hereinafter called "the union"), of the one part, and the Wellington Farmers' Meat Company (Limited), Masterton (hereinafter called "the employers"), of the other part, whereby it is mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:—

1. That the terms, conditions, stipulations, and provisions contained and set out in the schedule hereto shall be binding upon the said parties, and they shall be deemed to be and are hereby incorporated in and declared to form part of this agreement.

2. The said parties hereto shall respectively do, observe, and perform every matter and thing by this agreement and by the said terms, conditions, stipulations, and provisions respectively required to be done, observed, and performed, and shall not do anything in contravention of this agreement or of the said terms, conditions, stipulations, and provisions, but shall in all respects abide by and perform the same.

3. This agreement shall continue in force from the day of the date hereof, and thereafter shall continue in force until superseded by another agreement or by an award made under the provisions of the said Act.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed these presents the day and year first before written.

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THE SCHEDULE BEFORE REFERRED TO.

Hours of Work.

1. An ordinary day's work shall not exceed eight hours in each twenty-four hours. Unless otherwise mutually arranged, intervals for meals shall continue as at present.

Rates of Pay and Working-conditions.

2. The following shall be the minimum rates of wages and pay to be paid to, and the conditions to be observed by, the following several classes of workers, namely:—

Slaughterhouse assistants—	£	s.	d.
Boners (per hour)	0	1	6
Boners, improvers (men who have been less than two years at the work), (per hour)	0	1	4½
Floormen (per hour)	0	1	6
Gutmen (per hour)	0	1	6
Gutmen on beef (per hour)	0	1	6
Piecework—			
Floormen (per 1,000)	1	3	0
Gutmen (per 100)	0	3	6
Gutmen on beef (per head)	0	0	2
Cooling-floor hands, floormen, trimmers, and general labourers (per hour)	0	1	4½

	£	s.	d.
Fellmongery—			
Painters (per hour)	0	1	5½
Painters on piecework (to include dagging, trimming, painting, and carrying away)—			
November to March inclusive (per 100)	0	3	3
April, May, and June (per 100)	0	3	6
Piece or pie men (piecework at per pound on weight of dry wool)—			
November to March (per pound)	0	0	13¼
After March (per pound)	0	0	1½
Or at the following rate, which shall be optional (per hour)	0	1	1½
Limers, men employed, of which liming forms part of their work (per hour)	0	1	5½
Limers, full-time (per hour)	0	1	6
Fleshers—			
Machine-feeder, first three months (per hour)	0	1	4½
Machine-feeder, after three months (per hour)	0	1	6
Piecework—			
On sheep (per dozen)	0	0	13¼
On lambs (per dozen)	0	0	11½
Scudder, first three months (learners), (per hour)	0	1	4½
Scudder, after three months (per hour)	0	1	5½
Or at the following rate for piecework, which shall be optional:—			
Scudding (per dozen)	0	0	3
Fleshing (per 100)	0	0	6
Hourly work (per hour)	0	1	4½
Pelt-classers (per hour)	0	1	6
Skin-washers (per hour)	0	1	6
Piecework—			
December to January	0	1	2
February to March (per 100)	0	1	5
April to May (per 100)	0	1	9
June (per 100)	0	2	0
Pullers—			
Learners, first six months (per dozen)	0	0	6
Learners, second six months (per dozen)	0	0	7
All skins pulled over thirty an hour (per dozen)	0	0	9
Journeymen (per dozen)	0	0	9
Work done on Sundays and holidays (per dozen)	0	0	10
Waiting-time (per hour)	0	2	0
Pressers, ratchet-press (per hour)	0	1	4½
Or at contract prices as follows, which shall be optional: All piecework, two pressers divide (per bale)	0	1	1

shall be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter. The provisions of this clause shall not apply to workers at piecework rates.

Preference.

6. Preference of employment shall, in the engagement of workers, be given to members of the union, provided and so long as the rules of the union permit any person of good character, upon payment of an entrance fee of not more than 5s. and of subsequent contributions at a rate not exceeding 6d. per week, upon the written application of such person stating his desire to join the union, without ballot or other election, to become and remain a member thereof.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent the continued employment or re-employment of workers now in the employment of the employer although such workers may not be or become members of the union, provided they are employed at the same class of work each season.

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

General Conditions.

7. (a.) Gloves, aprons, overalls, &c., or material therefor, shall be supplied by the employers to those workers whom it has been customary to supply with same—*i.e.*, day-labour men; contract men supply their own.

(b.) Suitable dressing-rooms shall be provided, with provisions for bathing and drying wet clothes.

(c.) Waiting-time and delays in setting men to work shall be avoided as far as possible.

(d.) Spells of a reasonable time shall be allowed to men who are in a heated condition, through working outside, to cool before entering the freezing-chambers. No deduction shall be made from men's wages on account of such spells.

(e.) Spells for smoking may be arranged upon between the men and the foreman of each department.

(f.) Where contracts are let all contractors shall pay the men employed by them not less than the minimum rates of wages herein prescribed. The employers shall make it a binding term of any such contract that the contractor shall comply with this condition.

(g.) Subject to the provisions of this award, the employers shall retain and have full powers to manage and control the business and the conduct of their employees in connection therewith, and to make reasonable rules and regulations relating to the management thereof, and the hiring, conduct, duties, and dismissal of persons in their employ.

(h.) This agreement shall not apply to permanent hands employed from year to year.

Under-rate Workers.

8. (a.) Any worker who considers himself incapable of earning the minimum wage fixed by this agreement may be paid such lower wage as may from time to time be fixed, on the application of the worker after due notice to the union, by the local Inspector of Factories; and such Inspector in so fixing such wage shall have regard to the worker's capability, his past earnings, and such other circumstances as such Inspector may think fit to consider after hearing such evidence and argument as the union and such worker shall offer. Such permit shall be for such period, not exceeding six months, as such Inspector shall determine, and after the expiration of such period shall continue in force until fourteen days' notice shall have been given to such worker by the secretary of the union requiring him to have his wages again fixed in the manner prescribed in this clause: Provided that in the case of any person whose wage is so fixed by reason of old age or permanent disability it may be fixed for such longer period as such Inspector may think fit.

(b.) Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be competent for a worker to agree with the president or secretary of the union upon such wage without having the same so fixed.

(c.) It shall be the duty of the union to give notice to the Inspector of Factories of every agreement made with the worker pursuant hereto.

(d.) It shall be the duty of the employer, before engaging a worker at such lower wage, to examine the permit or agreement by which such wage is fixed.

Matters not provided for.

9. Any dispute in connection with any matter not provided for in this agreement shall be settled between the particular employer concerned and the secretary or president of the union; and in default of any agreement being arrived at, then such dispute shall be referred to the local Inspector of Awards, who may either decide the same or refer the matter to the Court. Either party dissatisfied with the decision of the Inspector of Awards may appeal to the Court upon giving written notice of such appeal to the other party within seven days after such decision shall have been communicated to the party desiring to appeal.

Term of Agreement.

10. This agreement shall come into force on the 10th day of April, 1916, and shall, at the option of the company named in this agreement, continue in operation either for a period of three years from the date herein mentioned or for a period to be determined by the currency of the war.

The common seal of the Wellington Freezing-works Employees' Industrial Union of Workers was affixed hereto by the undersigned,

John Smith and Michael John Reardon, pursuant to a resolution of the union passed on the 10th day of April, 1916, at a special meeting called for the purpose, in the presence of—J. McKenzie, witness.

[SEAL.]

J. SMITH.

M. J. REARDON.

The common seal of the Wellington Farmers' Meat Company (Limited) was hereunto affixed in the presence of—

[SEAL.]

J. C. COOPER, }
 WALTER CAMERON, } Directors.
 J. MILNE, Secretary.

Signed at Masterton, this 4th day of May, 1916.