

NORTHERN (AUCKLAND) INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

(5268.) NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (EXCEPT GISBORNE JUDICIAL DISTRICT) BAKERS AND PASTRYCOOKS.—ORDER AMENDING AWARD.

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Northern Industrial District.—In the matter of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1908, and its amendments; and in the matter of the War Legislation and Statute Law Amendment Act, 1918; and in the matter of the Northern Industrial District (except Gisborne Judicial District) Bakers and Pastrycooks' award dated the 15th day of May, 1918, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. xix, p. 519.

UPON reading the application of the Auckland Operative Bakers and Pastrycooks' Industrial Union of Workers filed herein on the 6th day of May, 1919, and upon hearing the duly appointed representatives of the said union and of the employers parties to the said award, this Court, having regard to all the relevant considerations and being of opinion that it is just and equitable to amend the said award, doth hereby order that the said award shall be amended in manner following, that is to say—

1. By inserting in the said award, after subclause (a) of clause 2 thereof, the following subclause:—

“(a.) (1.) In addition to the minimum wages above prescribed there shall be paid to each of the workers above mentioned a bonus of 5s. per week unless and until the Court shall otherwise order.”

2. This order shall operate and take effect as from the 14th day of July, 1919.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1919.

T. W. STRINGER, Judge.

MEMORANDUM.

In this application, which was made under the War Legislation and Statute Law Amendment Act, 1918, the union petitioned the Court to so amend the hours of work fixed by the award as to abolish night baking, and also to increase the rates of wages.

While it is competent for the Court, on an application under the Act, to amend the provisions relating to the hours of work, nevertheless, as explained at the hearing, the Court is of opinion that it was not desirable or proper, on such an application and during the currency of the award, for the Court to entertain the question of effecting such a radical alteration in a long-established custom of the trade as would be involved in the abolition of night baking. Moreover, the question was fully considered by the Court in making an award in this industry in the Wellington District in May, 1916, when it was stated that, although the Court was opposed to night baking, yet, as it could not control bakers who did not employ workers, it did not think it would be fair to

impose the restriction upon bakers who did employ workers. The Court can only repeat what it then said—viz., that it thought the reform a desirable one, and that it ought to be effected by legislation so as to bind all bakers irrespective of whether or not they employed workers.

As to the application for increased wages the Court would have been glad to have placed journeymen bakers on the same footing in this respect as other skilled workers. The Court, however, felt itself unable to do this in view of the facts that there has been no appreciable increase in the cost of living since the award was made, that the price of bread has been fixed by the Board of Trade and cannot therefore in the meantime be increased, and that the master bakers have had to meet increased expenses which cannot be passed on to the public. The Court, however, thinks that some assistance should be given to the workers covered by the award, and it has therefore determined to grant them a bonus of 5s. per week, and has amended the award accordingly.

T. W. STRINGER, Judge.