

(5159.) CHRISTCHURCH TRAMWAY EMPLOYEES.—ORDER AMENDING
AWARD.

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Canterbury 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 Christchurch Tramway Employees' award dated the 17th day of December, 1917, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. xviii, p. 1318.

UPON reading the application of the Christchurch Tramway Board filed herein on the 13th day of January, 1919, and after hearing the duly appointed representatives of the said Board and of the Christ-

church Tramway Employees' Industrial Union of Workers respectively, this Court, having regard to all the relevant considerations and being of opinion that it is just and equitable to amend the said award, and by virtue of the powers conferred by the said Acts and of every other power in that behalf enabling it, doth hereby amend the said award in manner following, that is to say—

1. To clause 1 of the said award there shall be added the following clause :—

“Each employee shall be paid during the continuance of this award a war bonus of 10 per cent. on his total earnings.”

2. This order shall come into force and take effect as from the 7th day of April, 1919.

Dated this 29th day of March, 1919.

— T. W. STRINGER, Judge.

MEMORANDUM.

The above order is made upon the application of the Board, under and in pursuance of section 18 of the War Legislation and Statute Law Amendment Act, 1918, requesting the Court to amend the existing award by providing that the employees of the Board shall, in addition to the rates provided by the award, be paid a bonus of 7½ per cent. on their respective earnings. The grounds upon which the application was based are clearly set out in the application and need not be repeated.

At the hearing the union opposed the application, and asked the Court practically to remodel the award and to put the Christchurch Tramway employees on the same footing as to hours and wages as had recently been granted to the Wellington and Auckland employees. This, as explained at the hearing, the Court was unable to do under the present application, even if it were disposed to do so. The existing award expires in October next, and it will be competent then for either party to apply for revision of the terms of the award; and the fact that increased rates have been conceded to tramway workers in Wellington and Auckland will afford a strong argument in support of an application that similar increases should be granted to the tramway employees in Christchurch.

The application of the Board embodies an offer which was made by them in October last, and which has been given effect to since that time, and has apparently been accepted without demur by the employees. The Court is of opinion that there has been some slight increase in the cost of living since October last, and that it would be fair and reasonable to increase the bonus to 10 per cent., and it has made the order accordingly. The Board also asked that the bonus should be calculated upon the wages of an ordinary week of forty-eight hours instead of upon the total earnings of the employees, but the Court has decided that the latter method should be retained.

T. W. STRINGER, Judge.