

(6416.) NEW ZEALAND MARINE COOKS AND STEWARDS.—ORDER AMENDING AWARD.

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Wellington 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 New Zealand Marine Cooks and Stewards' award dated the 12th day of April, 1920, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. xxi, p. 416; and in the matter of an order amending the said award dated the 28th day of August, 1920, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. xxi, p. 1459.

UPON reading the application of the union party to the said award filed herein on the 5th day of November, 1920, 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, and by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred by the said Acts and of every other power in that behalf enabling it, doth hereby order that the said award shall be amended in manner following, that is to say—

1. The minimum rates of wages prescribed by the said award for all workers therein mentioned (except cadets) shall be increased by a bonus of 10s. per month; and the minimum wages prescribed for cadets shall be increased by a bonus of 3s. 6d. per month; and such bonuses shall be paid unless and until the Court shall otherwise order.

2. This order shall operate and take effect as from the 1st day of November, 1920.

Dated this 24th day of December, 1920..

T. W. STRINGER, Judge.

MEMORANDUM.

Considering the special character of the employment in which the workers covered by this award are engaged, and of the substantial increases in wages which have from time to time been granted, either by agreement of the parties or by awards of the Court—increases which have fully compensated the workers for the increased cost of living since the outbreak of the war—the majority of the Court have had considerable doubt as to whether they ought not to dismiss the present application. They have, however, decided to grant a bonus of 10s. per month to workers other than cadets (to whom the sum of 3s. 6d. per month has been granted) and the above order has been made to amend the award accordingly. This is not quite equivalent to the recent bonus of 3s. per week granted to workers in industries properly so called.

The majority of the Court are of opinion that, inasmuch as the workers are supplied with food and accommodation by the employers, it is manifestly inequitable that the latter should be compelled to pay the full bonus representing the increased cost of living to the workers, when part of that increase, by the nature of the employment, already falls on them. The Court has not always recognized this principle in dealing with bonus applications in cases where the workers are supplied with board and lodging by their employers—as, for example, in the case of hotel-workers—but the question is open for reconsideration in any future cases. Mr. McCullough dissents from this decision, in that he thinks that the full amount of the recent bonus should have been allowed.

T. W. STRINGER, Judge.
