

(6461.) AUCKLAND (TWENTY-FIVE-MILES RADIUS) GROCERS' ASSISTANTS AND DRIVERS.—ORDER REFUSING TO AMEND 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 Auckland (Twenty-five-miles Radius) Grocers' Assistants and Drivers' award dated the 19th day of February, 1919, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. xx, p. 128.

Wednesday, the 23rd day of February, 1921.

UPON reading the application of the Auckland Grocers' Assistants' Industrial Union of Workers (filed herein on the 19th day of January, 1921) to amend the said award by reducing the hours of work thereunder to forty-four hours per week, and upon hearing the duly appointed representative of the said union and the representative duly appointed of the employers parties to the said award, this Court doth hereby order as follows:—

1. The hours of work shall remain and be forty-eight per week, as provided by section 3 (*a*) of the Shops and Offices Amendment Act, 1920.

[L.S.]

F. V. FRAZER, Judge.

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MEMORANDUM.

The Court had before it an application to amend the current award by reducing the hours of work to forty-four per week. The Court is of opinion that, as the reduction from fifty-two to forty-

eight hours came into operation only on the 1st day of January last, it is undesirable that it should at this early stage order a further reduction. The Court thinks it wise that the forty-eight-hour week should be given a fair trial, and the parties given an opportunity of conferring fully upon the matter before a reduction should be entertained.

The Court was also asked to fix the closing-hours of grocers' shops. Section 9 of the Shops and Offices Amendment Act, 1920, gives power to the Court to fix closing-hours in any award. This we take as applying to a new award, as the powers of amending an existing award are limited to wages and hours of work, and do not extend to hours of closing.

[L.S.]

F. V. FRAZER, Judge.