

(10158.) NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS.—AMENDMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP ORDER.

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Northern Industrial District.—In the matter of the Apprentices Act, 1923, and its amendments; and in the matter of the Northern Industrial District Plumbers and Gasfitters' apprenticeship order, dated the 26th day of September, 1924, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. XXV, p. 1165.

Friday, the 28th day of August, 1931.

WHEREAS by section 5 (2) of the Apprentices Act, 1923, the Court is empowered to amend any order made under section 5 (1) of the said Act: And whereas the Court has heard the duly appointed representatives of the persons, firms, and companies bound by the Northern Industrial District Plumbers and Gasfitters' apprenticeship order, dated the 26th day of September, 1924, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. XXV, p. 1165: Now, therefore, the Court, in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in it by the said Act, doth hereby order as follows:—

1. That the said order shall be amended by adding the following words to clause 6 thereof: "It is further provided that the apprentice allowed to an employer or firm shall be allowed only where the employer or one member of the firm is a registered plumber who himself works substantially at the trade."

2. That this order shall operate and take effect as from the day of the date hereof.

[L.S.]

F. V. FRAZER, Judge.

MEMORANDUM.

The union applied to have the proportion of apprentices reduced, owing to there being a surplus of journeymen in the trade. The position is, however, rectifying itself, for, owing to slackness of work, only two apprentices have been taken on in the past seven months. The proportion is lower in Auckland than in most other districts, and a majority of the Court cannot see its way to grant the further reduction now asked for. It has, however, restored a provision that will operate as a restriction on firms that might otherwise make an undue use of the proportion permitted.

F. V. FRAZER, Judge.

DISSENTING OPINION OF MR. MONTEITH.

The union asked a very reasonable adjustment of the quota. The position that has operated for some years now is that, after allowing for reasonable wastage, the majority of apprentices that come out of their time cannot secure employment. The young men serve an apprenticeship of six years, and a large number find that the time spent and the trade learned cannot give them a living. This has been the position for some considerable time now (apart from the depression). The proportion in the other building trades is much smaller, and no shortage exists of journeymen. It is useless providing for a larger output of journeymen than the trade can consume.
