

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND ENGINE-DRIVERS, FIREMEN, AND GREASERS.—DETERMINATION OF CONCILIATION COMMISSIONER.

In the matter of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, and its amendments; and in the matter of a reference to the Conciliation Commissioner under section 15 of the Finance Act, 1936, to determine the rates of remuneration payable to workers under the Otago and Southland Engine-drivers, Firemen, and Greasers' award, dated 17th December, 1935, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. XXXV, p. 1403.

THE award dated 17th December, 1935 (hereinafter called the new award) provided for payment of workers on an hourly basis. The award dated 25th May, 1927, and recorded in Book of Awards, Vol. XXVII, p. 376 (hereinafter called the original award) was in force in 1931, and was subject to the general order dated 29th May, 1931, provided for payment of wages on a daily basis.

Clause 4 of the original award set out the wages of the several classes of workers as follows:—

		Per Week.		
		£	s.	d.
Class (a), 17s. per day.	These workers would receive .. .. .	5	2	0
Class (b), 16s. per day.	These workers would receive .. .. .	4	16	0
Class (c), 17s. per day.	These workers would receive .. .. .	5	2	0
Class (d), 17s. per day.	These workers would receive .. .. .	5	2	0
Class (e), 15s. 6d. per day.	These workers would receive .. .. .	4	13	0

Forty-eight hours constituted an ordinary week's work. There were six daily periods for which the workers received payment as set out above.

The hourly rates for the different classes of workers would be—2s. 3d., Class (a); 2s., Class (b); 2s. 3d., Class (c); 2s. 3d., Class (d); 1s. 11½d., Class (e).

To ensure that the earnings of a worker employed under the new award shall not be less for any week than the earnings he would have been entitled to receive under the original award, the full daily working-period must be paid for if work is done on any day although a full day is not worked.

The Finance Act, 1936, restored the rate of remuneration fixed by the new award to equal the corresponding rates fixed by the original award. The basis of remuneration of workers

having been altered by the new award, the said Act requires the necessary adjustment to be made. In order to give effect to that requirement my decision is that each worker shall receive a full day's pay at the hourly rate prescribed for each day upon which he works even though a full day is not worked. In effect, it restores the daily wage as set out in the original award.

Dated at Christchurch, this 27th day of April, 1937.

S. RITCHIE, Conciliation Commissioner.