



- (2) Industrial agreement made on the 26th day of January, 1943, between the Christchurch City Council and the Christchurch Cleaners', Caretakers', and Lift Attendants' Industrial Union of Workers:
- (3) Industrial agreement made on the 15th day of March, 1943, between the Christchurch City Council and the Canterbury Local Bodies' Officers (other than Clerical) Industrial Union of Workers.

We are satisfied that negotiations in connection with these agreements were commenced before the 15th of December, 1942. The first agreement falls within the scope of subclauses (3), (4), and (7) (as amended) of Regulation 43A, while the other two agreements fall within the scope of subclauses (4) and (7) of the same regulation, having been made between 15th December, 1942, and 17th March, 1943, the date of commencement of this regulation.

The Court in approving of such agreements is directed to have regard to the general purpose of the regulations. According to clause 2, the general purpose of the regulations is to promote the economic stability of New Zealand.

The agreements provide for many increases in rates of wages to the workers concerned. In some cases the increases are substantial. The proposed rates are in a number of cases appreciably in excess of the rates prescribed for similar services elsewhere in New Zealand. It would appear that if the proposed rates were approved there would be some grounds for claims by other parties that anomalies had been created.

The main argument submitted to the Court in support of the applications for approval was that the Christchurch City Council had decided many months ago to give a general all-round increase to its employees as the respective awards and industrial agreements came up for reconsideration. It was stated that certain employees have already received the benefits of this policy, and it was claimed that it would be anomalous if the workers affected by the three industrial agreements under consideration were not similarly treated.

If the Court, by virtue of its jurisdiction under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, had been called upon to fix the rates of wages for the different classes of workers involved, it is very unlikely that it would have allowed the aforementioned policy of the Christchurch City Council to influence it to such a degree as to cause it to depart from its usual practice of fixing the same rates of wages for similar services rendered in different parts of the Dominion; and we do not think that the Council's policy should be regarded as the main consideration in dealing with the present applications.

Having regard to the general purpose of the regulations, we are satisfied that the agreements should not be approved in their present form, and the applications are therefore declined.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 1943.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

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