

NEW ZEALAND (EXCEPT MARLBOROUGH AND WESTLAND)
CANVAS-WORKERS.—APPLICATION FOR AWARD

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand, Wellington Industrial District.—In the matter of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1925, and the Economic Stabilization Emergency Regulations 1942; and in the matter of the New Zealand (except Marlborough and Westland) Canvas-workers' industrial dispute.

MEMORANDUM OF THE COURT, DELIVERED BY TYNDALL, J.

A COMPLETE settlement of this dispute was arrived at in Conciliation Council, and the assessors have requested the Court to embody the terms of settlement in an award. The dispute, however, was filed on 14th April, 1943, a date subsequent to the coming into operation of the Economic Stabilization Emergency Regulations 1942; consequently the Court is bound to comply with the requirements of Regulation 38. It may not make any variation in the minimum rates of remuneration at present applying to the industry, except such adjustments of anomalies as the Court thinks fit, having regard to the general purpose of the regulations.

The terms of settlement make provision for increases in the minimum rates of remuneration for the various classes of workers. For example, it is proposed that the rates for certain journeymen shall be increased from 2s. 8½d. per hour to 2s. 9d. per hour, which is the Court's casual rate for skilled workers.

An examination of the awards made in this industry since the Court's pronouncement of 1937 discloses that the minimum rates for journeymen have been consistently lower than the Court's standard skilled rate, and the said lower rates have on the last three occasions been settled by the parties themselves.

In view of these facts, we are not prepared to accept the contention that the rates for journeymen which at present apply in the industry constitute anomalies which the Court should adjust, having regard to the purpose of the Stabilization Regulations. Further, we are not satisfied from the information and arguments that have been submitted to us that the other adjustments to rates of wages agreed upon by the parties should be made.

The application for the making of an award in accordance with the terms of settlement is therefore declined, and the matter is referred back to the parties.

Dated this 30th day of August, 1943.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.