

WELLINGTON, MARLBOROUGH, NELSON, WESTLAND, CANTERBURY, AND OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND **RETAIL GROCERS' ASSISTANTS AND DRIVERS.**—AMENDMENT OF 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 an application for amendment of the Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, Westland, Canterbury, and Otago and Southland Retail Grocers' Assistants and Drivers' award, dated the 24th day of December, 1941, and recorded in 41 Book of Awards 1779.

IN pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in it by the Economic Stabilization Emergency Regulations 1942, and upon application made by a party to the Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, Westland, Canterbury, and Otago and Southland Retail Grocers' Assistants and Drivers' award, dated the 24th day of December, 1941, and recorded in 41 Book of Awards 1779, this Court doth hereby order as follows:—

1. That the said award shall be amended—

(i) By deleting subclauses (a) and (b) of clause 3, and substituting therefor the following subclauses:—

“(a) The minimum weekly rates of wages for workers shall be as follows:—

Age commencing at Trade.			First Year.		Second Year.							
			First Half.	Second Half.	First Half.	Second Half.						
Under 16	..	..	25/-	30/-	36/-	43/-	55/-	70/-	85/-	100/-	116/-	
16 to 16½	..	..	30/-	36/-	43/-	52/6	67/-	83/-	100/-	116/-	..	
16½ to 17	..	..	35/-	41/-	50/-	60/-	75/-	87/-	100/-	116/-	..	
17 to 18	..	..	40/-	48/-	59/-	73/-	85/-	100/-	116/-	..	..
18 to 19	..	..	45/-	55/-	67/6	80/-	95/-	116/-	..	..	..
19 to 20	..	..	55/-	65/-	78/-	90/-	116/-	..	..	..	..
20 to 21	..	..	90/-	105/-	116/-	..	..	..	..	..	..
21 and over	..	..	105/-	116/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

“(b) Branch manager or worker in charge of a shop or branch shop shall receive not less than £6 6s. per week.”

(ii) By deleting the amount of “1s. 6d.” in subclauses (a) and (c) of clause 6 (Overtime), and substituting therefor the amount of “1s. 9½d.”

(iii) By deleting clause 8, and substituting therefor the following clause:—

“ Notice of Overtime and Tea-money

“ 8. Notice shall be given prior to noon on the same day to any worker required to work overtime, and such worker if called upon to work overtime for more than fifteen minutes beyond his usual finishing-time for the day in question shall be paid 2s. tea-money: Provided also that where workers are not notified before noon on the same day the rate shall be 2s. 6d. in lieu of 2s.

“ The provisions of the two general orders of the Court made under the Rates of Wages Emergency Regulations 1940 shall not apply to the meal-money payments provided for in this clause.”

(iv) By deleting clause 10, and substituting therefor the following clause:—

“ Canvassers

“ 10. Canvassers required to be out collecting orders after 1 p.m. on any of the five days of the week shall be paid an allowance of 2s. for a meal: Provided that this shall not be payable if the canvasser is able to follow out his usual daily luncheon arrangement or if the employer makes provision for the canvasser to obtain a meal.

“ The provisions of the two general orders of the Court made under the Rates of Wages Emergency Regulations 1940 shall not apply to the meal-money payment provided for in this clause.”

(v) By deleting subclause (b) of clause 11 (Travelling Shops), and substituting therefor the following subclause:—

“ (b) A worker employed on a travelling shop who is away at night from his permanent place of abode shall be allowed 9s. for a bed and breakfast and 3s. for each other meal every day while away.”

(vi) By deleting the amount of “ 3s.” in subclause (a) of clause 14 (Casuals), and substituting therefor the amount of “ 3s. 3½d.”

2. That for the purpose of removing doubts as to the operation of the two general orders of the Court made under the Rates of Wages Emergency Regulations 1940, and dated the 9th August, 1940, and the 31st March, 1942, respectively, it is

hereby declared that the amended rates of remuneration provided by this order shall, except where otherwise provided, be increased to the extent and in the manner set forth in the said two general orders of the Court.

3. That this order shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of April, 1945.

Dated this 18th day of June, 1945.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

DISSENTING OPINION OF MR. MONTEITH

This does not preserve and restore the position of these workers in relation to the majority of workers in New Zealand, but has the effect of making a new classification for weekly workers under some awards (this is one) and leaves these workers in a lower relative position in the wage structure than they occupied before. In the case of senior weekly workers, they should have received an additional 1s. 10d. to preserve their relative position. In fact, they have not been restored to the proper position in the wage structure.

Some of the junior workers have received no increase at all. How it can be claimed that the position of these juniors is preserved and restored is beyond me. Take the junior who received 60s. a week and still to-day gets 60s. a week, while about 99 per cent. of the workers of New Zealand have received an increase. His age scale rate is still 60s. Also, the two last age groups have received no increase. As a statement of concrete fact, it lowers their standard; and to do this under the No. 5 Amendment to the Stabilization Regulations, which are supposed to preserve and restore, is, as stated above, beyond me. In respect of juniors, it is a case of a reclassification taking place under the guise of preserving and restoring; but it does not preserve and restore at all in some cases.
