

NEW ZEALAND (EXCEPT WESTLAND) **PLUMBERS AND
GASFITTERS.**—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 New Zealand (except Westland) Plumbers and Gasfitters' award, dated the 21st day of June, 1944, and recorded in 44 Book of Awards 358.

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 New Zealand (except Westland) Plumbers and Gasfitters' award, dated the 21st day of June, 1944, and recorded in 44 Book of Awards 358, this Court doth hereby order as follows:—

1. That the said award shall be amended—

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

“(a) The minimum wage for a plumber and/or gasfitter shall be 3s. 0½d. per hour.”

(ii) By deleting subclause (b) of clause 8 (Travelling-time between Port Chalmers and Dunedin), and substituting therefor the following subclause:—

“(b) When workers are engaged at Port Chalmers and sent to work at Dunedin, or engaged at Dunedin and sent to Port Chalmers, the sum of 2s. per meal shall be allowed during the time they are employed, but when notice is given on the previous day journeymen shall provide their own lunch. Other meals, if the men are detained to work overtime, shall be paid by the employer.

“The provisions of clause 23 of this award increasing rates of remuneration shall not apply to the meal-money payment provided for in this subclause.”

(iii) By deleting subclauses (e) and (g) of clause 9 (Country Work), and substituting therefor the following subclauses:—

“(e) The employer shall either provide the worker while on country work with suitable board and lodging or, in lieu thereof, pay him for each working-day the sum of 6s.:

“ Provided that where through circumstances within the control of the employer a worker is employed upon country work for less than six consecutive days the employer shall provide such board and lodging and may not elect to make such payment in lieu thereof. Suitable board and lodging shall include the providing of mattresses and stretchers. For the purposes of this subclause Saturday shall be regarded as a working-day.

“ The provisions of clause 23 of this award increasing rates of remuneration shall not apply to the payment provided for in this subclause.”

“(g) Notwithstanding anything contained herein, and subject to the provisions of clause 6 hereof, an employer may agree in writing with any worker that in respect of any specified country work the hours of work shall be other than those hereinbefore prescribed: Provided, however, that all time worked outside or in excess of such prescribed hours shall be considered overtime and shall be paid for at the rate of 1½d. per hour in addition to the ordinary rates.”

(iv) By deleting clause 15 (Meal-money), and substituting therefor the following clause:—

“ *Meal-money*

“ 15. In the case of workers who cannot reasonably journey to and from their homes for meals being called back to work after 6 p.m. on any day the employer shall provide them with a meal or, at the employer's option, pay each such worker 2s. meal-money. Irrespective of any meal due or meal-money payable under the foregoing, in the event of any worker situated as aforesaid being called back to work after 1 p.m. on Saturday and not having been given notice on the day previous of his being required to so work, the employer shall provide such worker with a midday meal or, at the employer's option, pay such worker 2s. meal-money.

“ The provisions of clause 23 of this award increasing rates of remuneration shall not apply to the meal-money payments provided for in this subclause.”

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

Dated this 5th day of May, 1945.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

MEMORANDUM

In various Government services allowances for board and lodging when workers are required to work away from their headquarters have generally been increased during the past two years. It is considered, therefore, that an increase in the allowance for board and lodging provided in the "Country Work" clause is justified. The appreciable increase awarded in the hourly rate of wages also justifies a review of the special rate for overtime in the country work clause.

With regard to the application of the workers' union that the rates for workers in charge, dirty work, height-money, welding-allowance, travelling-allowance, &c., should in general be proportionately increased, it has not been shown to our satisfaction that rates of this nature have recently been varied to such an extent by any award, industrial agreement, or otherwise to justify the granting of the union's application.

Mr. Monteith is not in agreement, and his dissenting opinion follows.

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

DISSENTING OPINION OF MR. MONTEITH

I am not in agreement with the amount awarded as country allowance or with the decision not to increase dirt-money payments. By recent Railway Tribunal decisions the dirt-money payment for certain work in the loco-running sheds has been increased from 1½d. to 2½d. per hour, and all allowances for country work have been increased, the lowest by 1s. per day, while the average increase is about 2s. 6d. Here the increase awarded is about 9d. per day. It is therefore clear that in this respect the position of plumbers has not been restored, but, in comparison with the general wages structure, their position has been lowered.
