

INDUSTRIAL DISTURBANCES DURING THE YEAR

There were 43 industrial stoppages during the year, compared with 111 in 1941-42. These disturbances involved lost time equivalent to 26,123 working-days, compared with 45,759 working-days lost the previous year. There were 25 disturbances in the mining industry and 7 in the freezing industry. Of the disturbances during the year, only 6 involved absences exceeding one working-day. One shipping dispute involved a stoppage for 4 days (7 men) and another a stoppage for 27 days (5 men). The latter concerned alleged insufficient accommodation for the crew on a vessel and was adjusted by the setting-up of a disputes committee. One dispute in the mining industry affected the Waikato area and involved 1,417 men for periods ranging from 8 to 17 days. A demand that the piece-rate earnings of 5 pairs of miners be brought up to the minimum was not conceded, as it was alleged that there had been a deliberate "go-slow." The introduction of State control of the Waikato mines was an important factor in the settlement of this dispute—see the Waikato Coal-mines Control Emergency Regulations 1942 (Serial number 1942/293).

Comparison with other countries is often a matter of difficulty, because published statistics are sometimes in no way related. During emergency conditions also many countries do not publish details of industrial stoppages. The following statement is based on available information.

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New Zealand	1940-41	49	9,293	24,082	2.7
	1941-42	111	20,466	45,759	2.2
	*1942-43	43	8,353	26,123	3.1
New South Wales (<i>New South Wales Industrial Gazette</i> , 28th February, 1942)	1940	434	227,505	1,075,714	4.7
	1941	766	344,477	912,035	2.6
Canada (the <i>Labour Gazette</i> , May, 1942, p. 521)	1940	168	60,619	266,318	4.3
	1941	231	87,091	433,914	4.9
†Great Britain	1940	922	299,400	940,000	3.2
†United States	1940	2,508	576,988	6,700,872	11.6

* Twenty-five of these disputes involving 6,877 workers for 25,748 days were in the coal-mining industry.

† Quoted in report of the Department of Labour, Dominion of Canada, for the financial year ending 31st March, 1941, page 15.

LABOUR DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT, 1913

During the year nine agreements were filed pursuant to section 8: twelve agreements were in force on 31st March, 1942.

APPRENTICES ACT

At the present time there are 134 Apprenticeship Committees each representative of employers and workers. Pursuant to requests by Committees, officers of the Department have made 100 special investigations during the year, while in addition 83 complaints were investigated. As a result and following the inspections of factories, &c., referred to elsewhere in this report, 11 prosecutions were commenced and 110 warnings were issued. Convictions were secured in 9 cases, fines amounting to £23 being imposed. Two of the prosecutions were against workers, the cases being adjourned *sine die*.

The following table gives the approximate number of apprentices in the trades to which the Act now applies:—

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF APPRENTICES EMPLOYED IN SKILLED TRADES APRIL, 1943

Trade.	Number of Apprentices employed.	Trade.	Number of Apprentices employed.
Baking	278	Hatmaking	10
Boatbuilding	26	Jewellery	94
Boilermaking	41	Leadlight	14
Bootmaking	381	Masonry	14
Boot-repairing	43	Moulding	101
Blacksmithing	11	Painting	256
Bricklaying	22	Photo-engraving	70
Carpentering	1,313	Plastering	96
Clothing	175	Plumbing	480
Coachbuilding	288	Printing	791
Coopering	8	Saddlery	34
Cycle-working	1	Sail and tent making	3
Dentistry	22	Tailoring	17
Electrical	804	Tile-laying	1
Engineering	1,613	Tinsmithing	175
Motor engineering	1,181	Wicker-working	11
Furniture	876	Wire working	3
Furriers	1		
Gardening	5	Total	9,364
Hairdressing	105		