

(d) *Labour Disputes Investigation Act, 1913*

During the year 11 agreements were filed under this Act. On 31st March, 1948, 11 such agreements were in force. This number represents a decline from the 15 agreements in force twelve months previously.

(e) *Industrial Disputes*

The 113 industrial disturbances during the year were distributed among the various industries for duration as follows:—

Industry.	Up to One Day.	More than One Day and up to Three Days.	More than Three Days and up to Ten Days.	Over Ten Days.	Go-slow.	Total.
Coal-mining	23	4	8	..	1	36
Meat-freezing	11	3	2	2	3	21
Shipping—						
Watersiders	9	3	..	2	..	14
Seamen	1	2	1	..	..	4
Transport (including airways)	5	2	1	..	..	8
Engineering	3	..	1	2	1	7
Building and allied trades ..	..	4	..	1	1	6
Others	8	4	3	1	1	17
Total	60	22	16	8	7	113

(f) *Minimum Wage-rates fixed by Awards and Industrial Agreements*

(1) The Court of Arbitration during the year considered an application by the New Zealand Federated Furniture and Related Trades' Industrial Association of Workers under Regulation 39B of the Economic Stabilization Emergency Regulations for a pronouncement specifying standard rates of wages and for an amendment of the New Zealand Furniture Trade Employees' award, the main amendment sought being the addition of 6d. an hour to the rates of wage.

(2) The decision of the Court (1947 Awards 1345) surveyed the voluminous submissions of the parties at length. It concluded by making a standard wage pronouncement, saying that standard minimum rates for adult male workers would, in future, be—

Skilled workers	..	..	3s. 7d. per hour.
Semi-skilled workers	..	..	3s. 2½d. to 3s. 5¼d. an hour.
Unskilled workers	..	..	3s. 1½d. an hour.

(3) Standard rates for juniors were to be increased proportionately, and those for women were to be such as to bring them to a level 10s. a week above those provided for in the amendments of awards and industrial agreements which followed the 1945 pronouncement.

(4) It was emphasized that this decision did not amount to a general wage order and that each award would have to be considered, in turn, on its merits. The appropriate amendments were subsequently made by the Court either of its own volition or after hearing the parties and dated from the 1st October, 1947.

(5) Table XIII gives the minima now in force in a number of trades. Where there is no Dominion award in force, Wellington rates have been taken. It is to be noted that the new rates include the cost-of-living bonuses which previously had to be added to the award rates.