

Although the figures given are a summary of the work in the city and suburbs only, I am sorry to state a record is established in regard to the number of enforcements submitted to the Court, the total number of cases being 250. Convictions were obtained in 144 cases, and fines inflicted to the extent of £284 15s. Seventeen cases were dismissed, and 89 were withdrawn. In the following table the cases taken to the Court are analysed in order to show the respective awards or agreements under which the alleged breaches occurred :—

TABLE NO. 2.—ANALYSIS OF ENFORCEMENTS FILED during year ending 31st March, 1908.

Award, &c.	Total filed.	Convicted.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Penalties.
					£ s. d.
Bakers	7	5	2	..	6 0 0
Bootmakers	2	2	..	..	3 0 0
Bricklayers	1	1	..	..	1 0 0
Building trades' labourers.. ..	18	14	3	1	23 0 0
Butchers	8	5	1	2	15 0 0
Carpenters	5	5	..	..	16 0 0
Coachworkers	2	1	1	..	2 0 0
Cooks and waiters' industrial agree- ment (to 11th November, 1907)	131	49	7	75	73 0 0
Cooks and waiters (from 6th January, 1908)	1	..	..	1	..
Drivers	19	18	1	..	51 10 0
Farriers, &c.	1	1	..	..	..
Furniture trades	9	9	..	..	22 0 0
General labourers	2	1	..	1	3 0 0
Grocers	8	7	..	1	24 0 0
Letterpress printers and machinists..	3	2	..	1	8 0 0
Painters, &c.	4	3	..	1	5 0 0
Plasterers	4	3	1	..	4 0 0
Plumbers	1	..	..	1	..
Tailoresses	2	1	..	1	0 5 0
Tailors	12	9	1	2	20 0 0
Timber-yards, &c.	3	2	..	1	1 0 0
Tinplate-workers	1	1	..	..	5 0 0
Typographical	3	3	..	..	..
Wharf-labourers	3	2	..	1	2 0 0
Totals	250	144	17	89	284 15 0

In 141 cases where breaches had occurred I was permitted to effect settlement without recourse to the Court. In the course of these adjustments arrears of wages amounting to £133 14s. 1d. were recovered and distributed to the workers concerned.

Fourteen cases were stated to the Court for interpretation, and in the remaining 324 investigations no breach of award was disclosed.

In the previous year's report a hope was expressed that the great number of cases in Wellington then dealt with would have a deterrent effect, and cause parties to recognise their liabilities in respect to these industrial measures. The hope has not been fulfilled, and it is a rather noteworthy fact that for the last four years, during which time the Department has had the duty of the enforcements, the breaches committed in Wellington alone exceed the sum-total of those reported from the other three centres—in fact, I believe from the rest of the Dominion.

While investigations into these complaints are made, I make a point as far as possible of satisfying myself as to whether general compliance is given to the awards in force, and in this way a considerable amount of original investigation is done.

As occurred last year, the majority of the cases brought before the Court (131 out of a total of 250) were filed against parties to the Cooks and Waiters' industrial agreement, which became binding on the parties cited owing to the employers having, through some misunderstanding, failed to lodge their intended objection within the prescribed time. In November last the Court held the recommendations of the Board to be invalid, and in consequence the industrial agreement became void. On this account alone 70 cases were withdrawn. A new award was then made by the Court, and about the same time the Legislature provided by statute for a weekly half-holiday to be given to all assistants in hotels. The previous difficulties now having been removed, very little trouble is anticipated regarding future non-compliance by the parties.

In the Drivers' award, 19 enforcements were filed, and 35 cases were settled by adjustment.

Eighteen cases were taken under Building Trades Labourers' award, and the remaining citations were distributed amongst the 20 industries mentioned in the summary quoted earlier in this report.

Amongst the cases decided during the year the following should be mentioned :—

A newspaper-proprietor was fined for a breach of section 113 of the Act, for publishing an article calculated to prejudice the Court or Board in its hearing of a dispute.