

1913.
NEW ZEALAND.

TIMBER-PRICES AND TIMBER-WORKERS' WAGES

(INCREASE OF) IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT FOR YEARS 1901 TO 1913.

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives dated the 5th September, 1913.

Ordered, "That there be laid before this House a return showing—(1) The average increase in the price of ordinary building-timber (kauri, totara, and rimu) for the years 1901 to 1913 in the Northern Industrial District; and (2) the average increase of the timber-workers' wage for the same period and district."—(Mr. COATES.)

RETURN TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPECT TO TIMBER-PRICES AND WAGES OF WORKERS DURING THE PERIOD 1901 – 1913 (NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT).

(1.) *The Average Increase in the Price of Ordinary Building-timber (Kauri, Totara, and Rimu) for the Years 1901 to 1913.*

KAURI.

Date.	First Class.	Medium.	Second Class.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
June, 1901*	15 0	12 6	9 6
December, 1910*	24 0	18 6	12 0
1912†	25 0	19 6	12 0
Increase since 1901	66⅔ per. cent.	56 per cent.	26⅓ per cent.

*From the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland, for 1911. The Commissioner stated, *inter alia*, that the prices quoted are for ordinary building-timber, undressed, up to 24 ft. long, ¾ in. to 1 in. or more in thickness, and not exceeding 12 in. wide, at per 100 sup. ft.
†From the evidence, Cost of Living Commission (page 360, Mr. W. B. Leyland).

TOTARA AND RIMU.

No information available.

(2.) *The Average Increase of the Timber-workers' Wage for the same Period and District.*

The daily rates of pay of the principal workers, as stated in the various awards made in the industry, are set forth below (minimum rates only).

				19th April, 1902.*		Existing Rates. Award made on 6th April, 1911.	
				Country.	City and Suburban.	Country.	City and Suburban.
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Breakdown saws	...	...	Head	8 4	8 0	8 6	8 6
			Tail	7 0	7 0	7 6	7 6
Circulars	...	...	Head	8 6	8 6	9 0	9 0
			Tail	7 6	7 6	8 0	8 0
First drag-bench	...	...	Head	7 6	7 6	8 0	8 9
			Tail	7 0	7 0	7 6	7 6
Recutters	...	...	Head	7 6	7 6	8 0	8 0
			Tail	7 0	7 0	7 6	7 6
In charge jigger or log-frame	...	...	...	8 4	...	8 4	...
Log-getters	...	...	...	7 0	7 0	8 0	8 0
First saw-doctor	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	...	...
Engine-drivers, first-class certificate	...	...	...	9 0	9 0	10 0	10 0
Engine-drivers, second-class certificate	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	9 0	9 0
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	10 0	...	10 0	...
Mill carpenter	...	...	Head	9 0	...	9 0	...
"	...	...	Second	8 6	...	9 0	...
Yardman	...	...	Head	10 0	...	...	...

* The first award came into force on the 19th April, 1902.

It will be seen from the above statement that the minimum rate in the Northern District, under awards, has increased approximately by 6d. per day (= 6½ per cent.) during the period of twelve years 1902–13.

In giving evidence before the Cost of Living Commission in 1912 Mr. Leyland (p. 360) stated that the increase in the wages *actually paid* in the last six years to seventy-six men and boys at his town mill was £57 2s. 6d. per week, or 41 per cent. His bush wages ten years ago ranged from 35s. to 45s. per week and found (10s.), whilst in 1912 they ranged from 57s. 6d. to 70s. and found (20s.); this showed an increase of from 22s. 6d. to 25s. per week and found (10s.) = 67½ per cent.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,500 copies), £1 15s.

By Authority : JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1913

Price 3d.]