

INDUSTRIAL DISTURBANCES, 1ST APRIL, 1922, TO 31ST MARCH, 1930.

The following information respecting the industrial disturbances that have occurred in New Zealand during the past eight years will be of interest. In the figures given disturbances are excluded where there were no disputes with the employers (such as quarrels between the workers themselves, stop-work meetings, and the like); in other cases a disturbance extending simultaneously over several districts respecting the same matter has been counted as one disturbance only. Some of the disturbances consisted of refusals to work overtime without a cessation of work during ordinary hours—e.g., waterside work on Saturday afternoons and refusals of coal miners to work on certain Saturdays; in these cases the total amount of time so lost is counted as equivalent to the number of days shown in column 3.

(1) Workers affected.	(2) Number of Disturbances.	(3) Number lasting		
		One Day or less.	Two to Three Days.	Over Three Days.
Shipping and waterside workers ..	133	64	33	36
Miners	129	53	34	42
Freezing-workers	28	7	7	14
	290	124	74	92
New Zealand Railway employees ..	1	..	..	1
Flax-mill workers	2	..	..	2
Sawmill workers	3	1	..	2
Plasterers	1	..	..	1
Shearers (small parties)	7	4	2	1
Storemen	5	4	1	..
Labourers	3	2	1	..
Gasworkers	1	1	..	..
Metal-workers' assistants	1	1	..	..
Stage employees	1	1	..	..
Electrical workers	1	1	..	..
Hydro-electric workers	1	..	..	1
Tunnel workers	2	..	1	1
Stonemasons	1	..	..	1
	30	15	5	10
Totals	320	139	79	102

The above figures show that out of a total of 320 industrial disturbances 290 (90·6 per cent.) occurred amongst the three classes of workers first mentioned in the above schedule, and the remaining 30 (9·4 per cent.) took place in fourteen other industries. No disturbances occurred in the remaining sixty-one industries in which there are industrial unions of workers. The three classes of workers referred to were also responsible for 92 (90·2 per cent.) of the disturbances lasting over three days (column 3).

LABOUR DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT, 1913.

The following information shows the extent to which the workers have preferred the method provided by the above Act for the settlement of their disputes to the procedure to be followed if they register under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act:—

Industry affected.	Particulars.	Ballot of Workers.	Nature of Settlement.
Shift engineers in freezing-works, Wellington, and Taranaki	Agreement reached without recourse to a conference or to a Labour Disputes Committee	Not required ..	Agreement filed pursuant to section 8 (1).
Glassworkers, Auckland ..	Conference called by Conciliation Commissioner agreed upon minor points. Dispute then referred to a Labour Disputes Committee. Settlement resulted		Ditto.
Tramway and omnibus employees, Auckland	Conference called by Conciliation Commissioner. Settlement resulted		..
Gas Company's employees, Auckland	Owing to absence of Conciliation Commissioner dispute was referred direct to a Labour Disputes Committee. Settlement resulted		..