

1. The adoption of a log, a copy of which is signed by the Chairman and filed.
2. Minimum wage: Coat-, vest-, and trouser-hands—First-class, £1 10s.; ditto, second-class, £1 5s.; ditto, third-class, £1 1s. Machinists—First-class, £1 10s.; second-class, £1 5s. A first-class machinist to mean one working for an average of thirteen workers, or, if for a less number, one who can fill up her time in making a garment.
3. That the number of apprentices be limited to one to every four or fraction of the first four operatives, but no two apprentices are to be admitted in one year. The proportion to be gauged by full employment of operatives for two-thirds of a year.
4. The Board is not prepared to recommend the universal adoption of indentures. The following to be the period of apprenticeship: Coat-making, three years; vest- and trouser-makers, also machinists, two years.
5. The payment of apprentices to be as follows: 2s. 6d. per week for the first four months; a rise of 2s. 6d. per week each succeeding four months of the first year; thereafter a rise of 2s. 6d. per week on each succeeding six months until the term of apprenticeship expires.
6. The Board would discourage working overtime, but, when existing, overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and a quarter.
7. That employers shall employ members of the Wellington Tailloresses' Union in preference to non-members, provided there are members of the union equally competent with non-members to perform the work required to be done, and are ready and willing to undertake it where non-members are employed.
8. That an industrial agreement be drawn up embodying the foregoing recommendations, to last for twelve months from the 13th April, 1898, and which may be prolonged by the consent of parties.

That, if such an agreement be not signed within three days from date, either of the parties may appeal.

Mr. Veitch inquired if the clause relative to the employment of apprentices would affect those already under engagement. It was explained in reply by the Chairman that the award was in no degree retrospective, and any arrangements entered into at a prior date were perfectly valid.

Further, with reference to the period of apprenticeship, the employers were to understand that vest- and trouser-making would both occupy two years, but that, if any employé after learning one branch wished to take up another, the time would have to be decided by mutual arrangement.

The Tailloresses' Union decided to refuse to accept the award of the Conciliation Board in their dispute, and the matter went before the Court of Arbitration. (See September.)

*Tailors' Dispute.*—The case in which the Tailors' Union sued Veitch and Allan, master tailors, for £9 10s. for alleged breaches of the agreement drawn up by the Conciliation Board last year was concluded in the Magistrate's Court on the 29th April. Mr. Kenny, S.M., gave judgment for the plaintiffs for 1s. on the first cause of action—viz., that the firm had at various times deducted amounts alleged to be due under the log. Costs amounting to £6 10s. were allowed. On the alleged breaches in reference to the employment of weekly men and apprentices, the Court decided in favour of Veitch and Allan, to whom also leave was given to appeal on the first cause of action.

Messrs. Shepherd and Co. filed concurrence with the tailors' agreement arrived at some time previous at the instance of the Conciliation Board.

#### Christchurch.

*Dispute between the New Zealand Federated Boot Trade Union and Messrs. N. and J. Suckling* (before the Conciliation Board).—As the firm did not appear, but sent a letter declining to abide by any recommendation the Board could make, the Board decided to refer the case to the Arbitration Court. (See September list—Dunedin.)

*Carpenters and Joiners' Association.*—On the application by the Carpenters and Joiners' Association the Conciliation Board decided that the Committee of Employers and Workmen must decide the rate of pay of non-unionists as well as of unionists.

#### Palmerston South.

*Dispute between the Allandale Coal-miners' Union and the Allandale Coal Company* (before the Arbitration Court).—The union disagreed with the recommendations of the Conciliation Board, quoted page xxx., last year's report. The award is as follows:—

Whereas an industrial dispute arose between the Allandale Coal-miners' Industrial Union of Workers (hereinafter called "the union") and the Allandale Coal Company (Limited), (hereinafter called "the employers"), as to divers industrial matters: And whereas the dispute was duly referred to this Court: Now this Court, having heard the parties and the evidence adduced on both sides, doth hereby award as follows:—

#### Cavilling.

1. In the working of the collieries of the employers a system of cavilling shall be put in force under the following rules: (a.) Headings, levels, and pillars shall be cavilled for specially, and the manager of the mine shall be at liberty to object to any person going in for same whom he may deem to be incompetent for such work. (b.) A general cavill shall take place afterwards, and the first man out of a place shall be put into the first place vacant. (c.) Unsuccessful cavillers for special places (if desirous) shall cavill for the first special place to start in which may have become vacant. (d.) One man shall cavill for his place out of two or more places in the same manner as two or more men would cavill for one place.

#### Rates of Payment.

2. Headings worked either by one man or by two men shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 6d. per box, or 4s. 6d. per ton.

3. Levels worked by one man shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 4d. per box, or 4s. per ton. Levels worked by two men shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 6d. per box if the level is 8 ft. or less in width, and at the rate of 1s. 5d. per box if the level is over 8 ft. in width.

4. Back levels worked by one man shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 4d. per box. Back levels worked by two men shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 5d. per box.

5. Bords 12 ft. at least in width, if worked by one man, shall be paid for at the rate of 1s. 2d. per box, and if worked by two men at the rate of 1s. 4d. per box. For bords of a less width than 12 ft. there shall be paid, in addition to the sum last mentioned, an additional sum of 1d. extra per box for every 2 ft. or fraction of 2 ft. by which the width shall be reduced down to 6 ft.

6. For splitting pillars there shall be paid (according to the width of split) the same prices as for bord

7. Shift wages shall be at the rate of 9s. per day.

8. Deficient places shall be worked at shift wages: Provided, nevertheless, that the manager of the mine may enter into any arrangement which he may think proper with any of the men working in the mines for the working of such deficient places by piecework, at such advances upon the prices herein mentioned for piecework of a like character but not deficient as may be agreed upon between such manager and workman or workmen.