

The early part of the strike was marked by scenes of disorder at the four principal ports, and at Wellington several conflicts took place between the strikers and the police, in the course of which two civilians were wounded by revolver-shots, and several of the special police by the throwing of missiles.

The coal-mining industry was almost entirely suspended throughout the Dominion during the strike period, the only mine of any importance which was not closed being that at Kaitangata, where the union was registered under the Act. At the other principal mines the Miners' Unions had some time previously cancelled registration and affiliated with the Federation of Labour; these miners struck in sympathy with the waterside workers. A coal famine was threatened, and in Auckland the tramway service was for a time suspended owing to shortage of coal, but the famine was averted by the importation of large shipments of foreign coal. When the struggle was given up in December the Miners' Unions decided to return to work, but the mine-owners insisted on their registration under the Act before reopening the mines. In consequence the coal-mining industry was not in full swing until about the middle of January. The total number of miners who took part in the strike was approximately three thousand. The effect of the coal-miners' strikes was particularly felt on the west coast of the South Island, where trade generally was almost entirely stopped for some weeks, and where there was at one time a scarcity of food-supplies owing to the suspension of steamer services.

A feature in connection with the strike was the part taken by the waterside workers and seamen in New South Wales, who at one period of the strike decided to boycott all New-Zealand-owned ships. A number of unions that did not actually join in the strike assisted the strikers by contributing to their funds. The strikers also received considerable financial assistance from unions in Australia.

The following statement shows particulars in regard to each body of workers that struck:—

Trade.	Number of Strikers.	Duration of Strike.	Approximate Loss in Wages to Workers.
			£
Auckland brewers and aerated-water employees ..	150	3 weeks.. ..	900
Auckland bricklayers	150	3	1,575
Auckland carpenters	800	3	3,750
Auckland coal-miners—			
Huntly	474	12	19,600
Hikurangi, &c.	210	8	5,500
Auckland drivers	500	3	3,750
Auckland furniture-workers	280	2 .. 2 days ..	1,680
Auckland hotel employees	850	3 .. 2	2,000
Auckland labourers	1,000	3 .. 2	7,250
Auckland painters	200	2	900
Auckland seamen	400	6	4,000
Auckland timber-workers	376	11 days	2,707
Auckland waterside workers	1,000	6 weeks.. ..	15,000
New Plymouth waterside workers	76	7 .. 4 days ..	152
Wellington builders' labourers	310	2	1,600
Wellington drivers	500	2	2,500
Wellington seamen	1,000	6	12,000
Wellington shipwrights,	30	11	1,200
Wellington waterside workers	1,500	9	33,000
Pictou waterside workers	50	2	65
Nelson seamen	40	6	300
Nelson waterside workers	50	8	800
Nelson coal-miners (Puponga and North Cape)	94	9	3,002
Stockton coal-miners	185	9	6,350
Denniston coal-miners	540	9	15,300
Granity coal-miners	588	9	16,500
Seddonville coal-miners	80	11	4,000
Westport waterside workers	76	7 .. 4 days ..	2,000
Paparoa coal-miners	73	11 .. 2	2,750
Brunner coal-miners	83	9	2,000
Blackball coal-miners	354	13 .. 3 days ..	15,000
Runanga coal-miners	347	11 .. 4	15,000
Grey-mouth waterside workers	200	6 .. 5	2,750
Christchurch drivers	60	4	576
Lyttelton waterside workers	450	9	20,250
Oamaru waterside workers	75	6	280
Dunedin waterside workers	500	7	7,875
Nightcaps coal-miners	80	8 .. 2 days ..	2,740
Totals	13,731		236,602