

The awards and agreements actually in force as at the 31st March last totalled 445, and the following table shows the number operating in each industrial district:—

Northern (Auckland and Poverty Bay)	...	...	...	107
Wellington (including Hawke's Bay)	...	...	...	114
Canterbury	...	...	...	91
Otago and Southland	...	...	...	88
Taranaki	...	...	...	12
Marlborough	...	...	...	7
Nelson	...	...	...	9
Westland	...	...	...	17

Other business dealt with is as follows:—

ENFORCEMENTS OF AWARDS, INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS, ETC.

Cases taken by the Department for enforcement of awards, &c., total 433—viz., eight in the Arbitration Court and 425 in the Magistrates' Court. Of the total number 401 were successful. Fines, £650 14s.

It should be explained in regard to the cases dismissed that many of them were debatable or technical, and were therefore mostly test cases.

Cases taken by the Department (shown in Districts) for Enforcement of Awards, and of Miscellaneous Provisions of the Act.

District.	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
Northern	182	12	194
Taranaki	10	..	10
Wellington	108	12	120
Marlborough	1	..	1
Nelson	7	..	7
Westland	1	..	1
Canterbury	52	..	52
Otago and Southland	40	8	48
Total cases taken by Department	401	32	433

In four cases defendants appealed to the Court of Arbitration, all of which appeals were dismissed.

Four cases were also taken by unions (in Magistrates' Court).

Total cases taken by—	Successful.	Unsuccessful.	Total.
Unions	1	3	4
Grand totals	402	35	437*
Fines—		£	s. d.
Departmental cases		650	14 0
Union cases		0	5 0

Most of the cases taken under miscellaneous provisions of the Act were for failure to keep a wages and overtime book, including three against employers for making wilfully false entries in the book. In one instance a fine of £50 was imposed, as it was proved that defendant had, for a period, successfully misled the Inspector by the wilful falsification of his entries. (Defendant was also fined £10 for failing to pay award rate of wages.) Three were dismissed—(1) as there was some doubt in the evidence as to the keeping of the wages-book; (2) (where an employer was proceeded against for dismissing a worker because, it was alleged, he was president of a workers' union) the evidence showed that the worker had not been legally appointed president of the union; and (3) (where an employee had been dismissed allegedly because he had acted as an assessor on a Council of Conciliation) the Magistrate held that defendant had other reasons than that alleged for dispensing with the services of the worker concerned.

* This total includes strike and lockout cases as follow:—

- Six strike cases were against dredgemen in the gold-mining industry. Fines: two at £5, two at £3, one at 10s., one case dismissed. (These strikes took place during the preceding year.)
- One case was against a sheepowner who had allegedly locked out shearers because they had refused to shear sheep which they considered to be "wet." The Magistrate convicted defendant and imposed a fine of £25. Defendant appealed to the Arbitration Court, which upheld the appeal (on the ground that the wetness was not due to rain but to perspiration).