

Waterfront Industry Commission on the guaranteed minimum weekly wage, attendance-money, and certain other conditions of employment. In view of the continued refusal of overtime, the Government, on the 6th January, suspended the powers and authorities of the Waterfront Commission with the exception of two orders governing labour engagement bureaux and central pay offices. The National Council of the Waterside Workers' Union instructed all its branches to resume normal work on and from the 20th January. The suspension was rescinded when normal work recommenced, and the matters in dispute were referred to the Commission for further consideration. The Commission met to consider these matters, but was unable to agree even upon a basis of discussion of the dispute, and the Chairman, with the consent of the members, reported that the Commission was unable to deal with the dispute. He subsequently tendered his resignation, which was accepted with much regret. The appointments of the other members were then cancelled. After consultation, the Government and the union came to an agreement upon matters pertaining to daily and weekly minimum payments, Saturday engagements, accommodation and amenities, and annual and statutory holidays.

#### (5) INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

The figures below have been extracted from the Year-Book of Labour Statistics of the International Labour Office and official publications of other countries. They show a comparison of industrial disputes in five countries. Information which is internationally comparable is difficult of access, and there is necessarily considerable delay in compiling it. The statistics indicate that New Zealand is by no means the worst sufferer from strikes and lockouts. In actual numbers of strikes, workers involved, and working-days lost we have lower figures than any of the other four countries :—

| Year.   | New Zealand.        |                               |                                | Australia.          |                               |                                | Canada.             |                               |                                |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|         | Number of Disputes. | Workers involved (Thousands). | Working-days lost (Thousands). | Number of Disputes. | Workers involved (Thousands). | Working-days lost (Thousands). | Number of Disputes. | Workers involved (Thousands). | Working-days lost (Thousands). |
| 1938 .. | 72                  | 11                            | 35                             | 376                 | 144                           | 1,338                          | 142                 | 20                            | 149                            |
| 1939 .. | 66                  | 16                            | 54                             | 416                 | 153                           | 459                            | 120                 | 41                            | 225                            |
| 1940 .. | 57                  | 10                            | 23                             | 350                 | 193                           | 1,507                          | 166                 | 61                            | 266                            |
| 1941 .. | 89                  | 15                            | 26                             | 567                 | 248                           | 984                            | 229                 | 87                            | 434                            |
| 1942 .. | 65                  | 14                            | 51                             | 602                 | 169                           | 378                            | 352                 | 114                           | 450                            |
| 1943 .. | 69                  | 11                            | 15                             | 785                 | 296                           | 990                            | 401                 | 218                           | 1,041                          |
| 1944 .. | 149                 | 30                            | 53                             | 941                 | 261                           | 913                            | 195                 | 75                            | 490                            |
| 1945 .. | 154                 | 39                            | 67                             | 945                 | 327                           | 2,120                          | 197                 | 96                            | 1,457                          |
| 1946 .. | 97                  | 16                            | 30                             | ..                  | ..                            | ..                             | 228                 | 139                           | 4,516                          |

  

| Year.   | Great Britain.      |                               |                                | United States.      |                               |                                |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|         | Number of Disputes. | Workers involved (Thousands). | Working-days lost (Thousands). | Number of Disputes. | Workers involved (Thousands). | Working-days lost (Thousands). |
| 1938 .. | 875                 | 274                           | 1,330                          | 2,772               | 688                           | 9,148                          |
| 1939 .. | 940                 | 337                           | 1,360                          | 2,613               | 1,171                         | 17,812                         |
| 1940 .. | 922                 | 299                           | 940                            | 2,508               | 577                           | 6,701                          |
| 1941 .. | 1,251               | 360                           | 1,080                          | 4,288               | 2,363                         | 23,048                         |
| 1942 .. | 1,303               | 457                           | 1,530                          | 2,968               | 840                           | 4,183                          |
| 1943 .. | 1,785               | 557                           | 1,810                          | 3,752               | 1,981                         | 13,501                         |
| 1944 .. | 2,194               | 821                           | 3,710                          | 4,956               | 2,116                         | 8,880                          |
| 1945 .. | 2,293               | 531                           | 2,840                          | 4,750               | 3,467                         | 38,025                         |
| 1946 .. | 2,191               | 525                           | 2,160                          | 4,700*              | 4,650*                        | 113,000*                       |

\* Preliminary figures only.