

full discharge and release of all claim, but afterwards, on complications setting in, and having lost his foot, made application for £300. The Court held that the claimant acted foolishly in giving a discharge in full, and that he knew what he was doing; therefore the application was dismissed. (Decisions, &c., Vol. vii, p. 36.)

A greaser on a steamer claimed compensation for the loss of little finger. The shipping company expressed its willingness to take the claimant back at the same wages he was getting before the accident. The Court considered that although the claimant returned to work there was some doubt whether in the future his earning-capacity might not be affected, so made a "declaration of liability," in addition to £15 for back compensation, and five guineas costs. (Decisions, &c., Vol. vii, p. 51.)

A brickmaker claimed for loss of right hand injured in a pug-mill. The defence was "serious and wilful misconduct"; but the Court held that the plea would not be sustained if the injury arose merely from the thoughtless act of a man who did not appreciate the danger he was incurring. Claimant, who had been only ten days at the brickworks, had recently arrived from Ireland, where he had worked at a farm, and did not appreciate the danger of interfering with machinery in motion. Judgment was given for £250. (Decisions, &c., Vol. vii, p. 69.)

Another claim arose through the loss of left hand by the explosion of a gun when claimant was helping repair a fence on farm. This was a similar case to that last quoted, as it was a question of wilful misconduct. The Court considered it a thoughtless action, but not serious and wilful misconduct. Judgment was given for £250. (Decisions, &c., Vol. vii, p. 73.)

An appeal was made to the Arbitration Court from the decision of the Stipendiary Magistrate at Black's (Otago) for £150 compensation to a worker who had suffered gangrene following frost-bite when snow-raking on a sheep-run. It was held by the Court that injury from frost-bite may be an injury under the Workmen's Compensation for Injuries Act. The appeal was dismissed with costs, and the Magistrate's judgment for £150 sustained. (*Journal*, April, 1909, p. 384.)

#### COMPARATIVE PRICES OF COMMODITIES AND RENTS.

*Comparison of Average Prices of Commodities and Rents in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin with those in Wellington, taking Wellington as 100 (as at 1st March, 1909).*

				<i>Commodities.</i>			
				Wellington.	Auckland.	Christchurch.	Dunedin.
Bread	..	..	..	100	100	85·7	100
Butter	..	..	..	100	100	100	100
Flour	..	..	..	100	93	91·6	93
Oatmeal	..	..	..	100	93·7	81·2	75
Eggs	..	..	..	100	81·8	72·7	72·7
Tea, lowest price	..	..	..	100	75	100	100
„ average price	..	..	..	100	90	100	90
Sugar	..	..	..	100	91·4	108·5	91·4
Kerosene	..	..	..	100	93·7	112·5	100
Bacon	..	..	..	100	95	100	100
Soap, household, 1st grade	..	..	..	100	100	100	100
„ „ 2nd grade	..	..	..	100	87·5	75	75
„ „ 3rd grade	..	..	..	100	50	66·6	50
Candles, Premier	..	..	..	100	91·6	100	91·6
„ B. sperm	..	..	..	100	92·8	100	92·8
„ L. sperm	..	..	..	100	93·3	86·6	106·6
„ Price's	..	..	..	100	100	100	114·3
Milk	..	..	..	100	100	75	87·5
Coal	..	..	..	100	97·1	108·5	80
Gas	..	..	..	100	83	97	92·3
Beef, sirloin..	..	..	..	100	71·4	100	85·7
„ rump steak	..	..	..	100	87·5	100	100
„ stewing steak	..	..	..	100	70	120	100
Corned beef..	..	..	..	100	100	120	120
Mutton, hindquarter	..	..	..	100	88·8	88·8	100
„ shoulder	..	..	..	100	75	100	100
„ chops	..	..	..	100	83·3	100	83·3
Sausages (beef)	..	..	..	100	100	100	100