

The case *Purvis v. Timaru Wharf Labourers' Union*: A claim for 16s. 9d., a day's work lost through the union representing him as being unfinancial. Mr. V. G. Day dismissed this case on the ground that the union was not responsible for the 16s. 9d. claimed, as there was no contract between the plaintiff and the Union Steamship Company.

The following table shows details of expenditure of (a) Conciliation Boards (under the old Act) for the years 1908-9 and 1909-10; (b) Councils of Conciliation (under the present Act) from 1909-10, 1910-11, and 1911-12; (c) the Court of Arbitration for the four years 1908-9 to 1911-12, inclusive:—

	1908-9.			1909-10.			1910-11.			1911-12.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Boards	1,472	12	3	14	14	0
Councils	294	7	0	2,562	1	10	2,897	6	2	3,612	6	6
Arbitration Court ..	5,336	16	7	4,325	13	3	3,897	13	5	3,312	7	11
Totals	£7,103	15	10	£6,902	9	1	£6,794	19	7	£6,924	14	5

This table includes the annual salaries of the members of the Court (£2,800), and of the Conciliation Commissioners (£1,500). It will be noted that the expenditure for Conciliation Councils shows an increase of £715 0s. 4d. compared with last year's figures, whilst the expenses of the Arbitration Court show a decrease of £585 5s. 6d. The increased expenditure upon the Councils is entirely due to the larger number of cases taken this year as compared with last. As will be seen from a table following, no less than 21 more cases were heard than during the previous year.

The expenses of assessors of the Councils during 1911-12 for fees and travelling-expenses are as follows:—

Industrial District.	Fees.			Travelling-expenses.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Northern and Taranaki.. ..	441	0	0	63	12	7	504	12	7
Wellington, Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland ..	680	8	0	205	15	5	886	3	5
Canterbury and Otago and Southland	430	4	0	136	6	10	539	10	10
Totals	1,524	12	0	405	14	10	1,930	6	10

Comparing the totals with last year's expenditure (£1,117 11s. 11d.) there has been an increase this year of £812 14s. 11d.

Registration of Industrial Unions and Associations.

The usual annual return (to 31st December, 1911) is published separately in parliamentary paper H.—11A.

The following table shows the number of unions and members in both employers' and workers' unions from 31st December, 1904, to 31st December, 1911, inclusive:—

	Unions of Employers.		Unions of Workers.	
	Number of Unions.	Number of Members.	Number of Unions.	Number of Members.
December, 1903	103	3,080	258	27,640
„ 1904	109	3,292	273	30,271
„ 1905	113	3,276	261	29,869
„ 1906	109	3,337	274	34,978
„ 1907	121	3,630	310	45,614
„ 1908	122	3,918	325	49,347
„ 1909	120	3,702	308	54,519
„ 1910	118	4,262	308	57,091
„ 1911	118	4,251	307	55,629

It will be noticed that, although the number of employers' unions has not decreased, there is a slight falling-off of eleven in the membership. There is one workers' union less than for