



Government Gazette

OF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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No. 28.]

PERTH : WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18.

[1941.

IN THE COURT OF ARBITRATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In the matter of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1935, and in the matter of Part VII. of the said Act—Basic Wage.

BASIC WAGE—ANNUAL DECLARATION, 1941-1942.

Friday, 13th June, 1941.

THE PRESIDENT:

PURSUANT to the provisions of the Act, the Court has under consideration the matter of the basic wage to be declared for the year beginning 1st July, 1941. The parties interested have been notified of their right to place before the Court and submit for consideration any matters that might help the Court towards assessing the amount to be fixed. The various industrial unions of workers were represented by Mr. T. G. Davies. On the employers' side most of the registered unions of employers and the body known as the Employers' Federation were represented by Mr. L. L. Carter and Mr. G. F. Gill. The Chamber of Mines of Kalgoorlie and associated unions were represented by Mr. F. E. Walsh. The Minister for Works and other Ministers of the Crown were represented by Mr. S. S. Fisher, and the Commissioner of Railways was represented by Mr. E. B. McKenna. Statistical tables to assist the Court were prepared in the usual efficient manner by the Government Statistician, and I desire to acknowledge the indebtedness of the Court to Mr. H. J. Goodes, B.A., Statistical Research Officer, and to Mr. G. B. Lancaster for the preparation of the various statistical tables required, many of which appear in the Schedule hereto.

In his submission to the Court, Mr. Davies, for the workers' organisations, submitted that there should be no change in the standard of living as prescribed in the judgment given in 1938 nor in the family obligations to which the standard conformed. Mr. Carter, for the employers, agreed with Mr. Davies as regards the standard of living and family obligations, but he submitted to the Court that in assessing the basic wage the amount prescribed in 1938 in its present equivalent should be reduced by the amount of 5s. per week, representing the endowment for one child to be paid to mothers under the provisions of the Federal Family Endowment Act. His submission was based on the fact that in our basic wage we have made provision for a man, wife, and two children and since through the Endowment Act 5s. per week is allowed for each dependent child under 16 years of age except the first, the amount representing one child should now be deducted from the basic wage. Mr. Fisher and Mr. McKenna, representing the Government of the State, made no suggestions but simply submitted themselves as being prepared to accept any Judgment the Court might deem fit to make.

If we were to treat the matter as depending on the submissions of the various parties before the Court it would therefore only be necessary to examine Mr. Carter's proposition. This can best be done in a more concrete form by an examination of the figures submitted on behalf of the Government. From the statement put in by Mr. Fisher the total salaries and wages bill of the various public services (including Railways, Saw Mills, Implement Works, Hotels, Quarries, Brick Works, Shipping, and Harbour Boards), amounts to £5,122,600. This amount includes £710,000 expenditure on teachers in the Education Department who do