HANDBOOK TO THE LABOUR LAWS OF NEW ZEALAND

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LABOUR LAWS OF NEW ZEALAND.

Compiled under the direction of the late Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, P.C.,
Minister of Labour.

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PREFACE.

THE majority of the important statutes which have been grouped together as "The Labour Laws" had their origin in the policy of "advanced legislation" that has attracted attention to New Zealand of late years. They reveal themselves as the effect of a great popular effort to reform and improve the conditions of industrial life. In regard to one or two of the Acts which still endure hostile criticism, the censure that at present exists is directed more towards details or methods than in attack on the principle underlying the enactment.

EDWARD TREGEAR,

Secretary for Labour.

INDEX.

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THE INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT.

THIS Act, first passed in 1894, has been amended again and again, in order to retain its flexibility in the face of new difficulties. With legislation of this character, necessitating the introduction of enactments covering an absolutely novel and untried field of action, the tentative and experimental nature of many of its requirements becomes evident. The principle underlying the whole has, however, never been departed from, that principle being the transference of industrial disputes from the tumult of personal struggle into the calmer and more impartial atmosphere of a Court of Justice. The law as it stands at present is to be found in "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts Compilation Act, 1905," with a short amending Act of 1905.

Administration. Registration of unions.

The Act is placed under the administration of the Minister of Labour, and the Secretary for Labour is the Registrar of Industrial Unions. Industrial unions consist of any society associated for protecting or furthering the interest of employers or workers in specified industries. In the case of employers, two or more can form an industrial union of employers, and seven or more persons are empowered to form an industrial union of workers. These unions have to make rules, appoint committees of management, &c., all to be approved by the Registrar before they receive their certificates of incorporation.

The effect of registration is to render the industrial union and its members subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Conciliation, the Court of Arbitration, and all the provisions of the Act.