

LABOUR HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The articles published in this issue of the *New Zealand journal of industrial relations* were commissioned as a special labour history symposium to mark the posthumous publication of *Compulsory arbitration in New Zealand: the first 40 years* by Jim Holt, (Auckland University Press, 1986). Jim was one of New Zealand's foremost labour historians. His death in 1983 left unfinished what was intended to be an analysis of the arbitration system from the enactment of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act in 1894 to its repeal in 1973. However, Jim had taken the story in draft manuscript up to the abolition of compulsory arbitration in 1932, in one sense a logical stopping point. Erik Olssen subsequently prepared the manuscript for publication.

The following articles were presented at a seminar at the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University, Wellington, on November 7th, 1987. The seminar offered an opportunity both for a critical assessment of Jim's book, and for a gathering of many people interested in the study of labour history in New Zealand. It was highly successful on both counts, so much so that it is hoped to hold an annual labour history seminar.

At his death, Jim had just been appointed as Director of the Historical Publications Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, and for 20 years before that he had taught in the History Department of the University of Auckland. His contribution to the study of labour history in New Zealand was immense, as is evident to any reader of his book. However, Jim would have expected the book to be evaluated sternly and that others would take his analysis further and perhaps in quite different directions. The contributions to this symposium, while building on Jim's work, represent an effort to do just that.

Pat Walsh
Editor