

Mr. W. Hutchison.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

ANALYSIS.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Bible-reading permitted on certain conditions. Conditions.</p> | <p>3. Appointment of Bible-teacher.</p> <p>4. Attendance of pupils.</p> <p>5. Modification of section 84 of "The Education Act, 1877."</p> |
|---|--|

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to introduce the Reading of the Bible into the Public Schools. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Bible in Schools Act, 1896," and it shall come into operation on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven. Short Title.

2. If and as often as not less than twenty parents or guardians of children attending a public school, having an average attendance of one hundred children and upwards, shall by requisition in writing to the School Committee request that the reading of the Bible, with or without comment, may be instituted in the school, the Committee, if satisfied of the genuineness of the requisition and of the signatures thereto, shall take such steps as may be necessary to permit such Bible-reading as aforesaid within the regular school-hours, in a class-room separate and apart from the others: Bible-reading permitted on certain conditions.

Provided that the following conditions be first complied with by or on behalf of the requisitionists:— Conditions.

- (1.) They shall appoint a suitable person specially for the purpose of superintending and teaching such Bible-class; this person shall not be a teacher in the public school.
- (2.) They shall provide for the payment of the services of the person so appointed in this respect, and for any other expenses incident to the efficient carrying out of the Bible-class.
- (3.) They shall appoint a Committee of five of their number to act in conjunction with the School Committee, in so far as the management and control of the class-room set apart for the Bible-class is concerned, during such time as the class-room is used for such purpose.

(4.) The hour for holding the Bible-class shall be definitely fixed; the time occupied shall in no case exceed thirty minutes, and may be daily, or at less frequent intervals as may be mutually arranged by the Education Inspector, the School Committee, and the Bible-class Committee, having due regard to the convenience of the ordinary secular teaching of the school, which may not be interfered with in the case of those children attending the school who are not attending the Bible-class. 5

Appointment of  
Bible-teacher.

3. The parents or guardians of children attending schools in the same town or neighbourhood, or schools in contiguous rural districts, may unite together for the nomination and appointment of teacher of the Bible-class, which class he shall then hold in each of the schools united for this purpose, in such turn as may be arranged as aforesaid. 10 15

Attendance of  
pupils.

4. The Bible-class Committee shall have the power of admitting children to the Bible-class, whether or not attending the school as ordinary pupils, and whether or not the parents or guardians of such children contribute towards the expenses in connection with such Bible-class. 20

Modification of  
section 84 of "The  
Education Act,  
1877."

5. Subsections two and six of section eighty-four of "The Education Act, 1877," are hereby modified so as to authorise Bible-reading in the public schools, and payment for the same in terms of this Act, which shall be taken and read as part of the aforesaid Education Act. 25