[As reported from the Committee of the Whole, 3rd August, 1898.1

[BILL OF SESSION II., 1897.] [To be further considered in Committee of the Whole.]

Clause 1 agreed to, and clause 2 considered and amended and progress reported. 15th December, 1897 (vide Journals, pp. 222 to 225).

For amendments made vide clause 2.

For further amendments proposed vide Supplementary Order Papers 20, 27, and 28. 1897.

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND AND BANKING ACT AMEND-MENT.

ANALYSIS.

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BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

2. Board of Directors reconstituted.

3. Present directors eligible.

4. Provisions as to directors appointed by Governor in Council.

4A. Their term of office.

5. As to directors to be elected by shareholders. 5A. Their term of office.

6. When directors to take office. Office of President abolished. Compensation.

- 7. Contract as to salary, &c., of President declared void.
- 8. Provisions as to Board, Chairman, meetings, and quorum.

84. Chairman.

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12A. Transfer of shares not valid until authorised by Chief Auditor.

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13a. Bank may make provision for losses or deficiencies.

14. How annual dividends on preferred shares to be paid.

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GENERAL.

16. Assets Board balance-sheet to be yearly instead of half-yearly.

16A. Bank balance-sheet to be annual.

16B. Transfer of assets from Estates Company to Bank.

16c. Assets Board may transfer flour-mill and land to Bank.

17. Deed of settlement and Acts modified.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Further Provision respecting the Bank of New Title. Zealand. and to amend the Law-relating to Banks.

WHEREAS during a recent session of Parliament a Committee Preamble. of the House of Representatives was appointed to make certain 5 inquiries respecting the Bank of New Zealand and matters connected therewith: And whereas on the ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, the said Committee presented its report, and it is expedient to give effect to certain of the recommendations contained therein: and to otherwise amend the laws-relating 10 to banks:

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Bank of New Zealand Short Title. 15 and Banking Act Amendment Act, 18978." No. 110—2.—1897.

BANK-OF-NEW-ZEALAND.

Board of Directors reconstituted.

Present directors

Provisions as to directors appointed

by Governor in

eligible.

Council.

2. On and after the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, the Board of Directors of the Bank of New Zealand (hereinafter called "the Bank") shall consist of nine six persons, of whom,—

*(1.) Five Four shall be appointed by the Governor in Council;

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$

(2.) Four Two shall be elected by the shareholders of the Bank.

3. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, as-to-residence, the directors in office immediately prior to the said thirty-first day of March shall be eligible for appointment or election under this Act.

4. As to each of the five four directors to be appointed by the Governor in Council three shall be resident in the North-Island and two in the Middle Island, and with respect to each of them the following provisions shall apply:—

(1.) He shall hold office for three years, but as hereinafter provided, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

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(2.) He may at any time resign by notice in writing to the Governor, and the Governor in Council may at any time, on the ground of misconduct or incapacity, remove him 20 from office.

(3.) He shall not be subject to the provisions of the deed of settlement of the Bank as to qualification, retirement, or removal.

(4.) Whenever his seat becomes vacant, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors (hereinafter called "the Board") to forthwith notify the fact to the Colonial Treasurer; whereupon the Governor in Council shall as soon as practicable fill the vacancy by appointing a successor, who shall take office from the date of his appointment, and shall hold office for the same term and subject to the same conditions as his predecessor.

New clause.

Their term of office.

4a. The ordinary term of office of the four members to be appointed by the Governor in Council shall be two years, subject, 35 however, to the following special provisions:—

(1.) Of the four members first appointed, two shall retire from office on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and one, and the members to so retire shall, on or before the first Monday in February in that year, be 40 decided by lot amongst the four.

(2.) On the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and two, and on the same day in each subsequent year, the two members who have then been longest in office shall retire.

(3.) It shall be the duty of the Board to notify to the Colonial Treasurer not later than the first Wednesday in February, one thousand nine hundred and one, the names of the two members who are to retire in that year pursuant to lot, and if the Board fails or neglects so to do, or if 50

* Amendment under consideration: To insert "Four," in lieu of "Five" struck out.—(Right Honourable R. J. Seddon.)

the members to retire have not been duly decided by lot, the Colonial Treasurer shall determine by lot the members who shall retire, and they shall retire accordingly.

(4.) The successor to each member who retires pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be appointed by the Governor in Council not later than the first Wednesday in March in the year in which the retirement occurs, and shall take office on the thirty-first day of that month.

(5.) Subsection four of section four hereof shall be construed subject to the provisions of this section.

5. As to each of the four two directors to be elected by the shareholders of the Bank, two shall be resident in the North Island and two in the Middle Island, and with respect to each of them the following provisions shall apply:-

As to directors to be elected by shareholders.

(1.) He shall be elected at the half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors, to be held at the head office of the Bank in Wellington, in the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight nine, and shall hold office as hereinafter provided, but shall be eligible for re-election.

(2.) He, as also each of his successors in office, shall possess the qualifications prescribed by subsection two of section twelve of "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, 1894," and in all other respects shall be subject to the provisions of the deed of settlement of the Bank.

(3.) As often as his seat becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled in manner provided by the deed of settlement of the Bank.

New clause.

5A. The ordinary term of office of the two members to be elected Their term of by the shareholders of the Bank shall be two years, subject, however, to the following special provisions:—

(1.) Of the members first elected, one shall retire from office on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and one, and the member to so retire shall, on or before the first Monday in February in that year, be decided by lot amongst the two:

Provided that if for any reason the two do not cast lots, the Board shall determine by lot, or, if the Board fails or neglects so to do before the first Wednesday in February, the Colonial Treasurer shall determine by lot, which of the two shall retire, and he shall retire accordingly.

(2.) On the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and two, and at the same day in each subsequent year, the member who has then been longest in office shall

(3.) The successor to each member who retires pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be elected at the halfyearly general meeting of shareholders to be held in Wellington in the month of February next preceding the date on which the retirement occurs, and shall take office on such date.

(4.) Subsection three of section five hereof shall be construed subject to the provisions of this section.

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When directors to take office.

abolished.

- 6. The directors first appointed and elected as aforesaid shall take office on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight nine, and thereupon the following events shall forthwith ensue:—
 - (1.) The directors then previously in office shall cease to hold

Office of President

(2.) The office of the President of the Bank shall be deemed to be abolished, and the President shall cease to hold that office. and all references to him, his office, or functions contained in "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, 10 1894," or any amendment thereof, other than this Act, shall be deemed to be repealed:

Provided nevertheless as follows, that is to say:—

(a.) Within one month after the abolition of his office the Board shall offer him, without prejudice, a sum equal 15 to one two years' salary in full satisfaction of any right or claim he may have against the colony or the Bank for damages or compensation for loss of office.

(b.) If he declines to accept such offer he may, within three months after the abolition of his office, but not later, institute proceedings in any Court of competent jurisdiction against the Bank to recover damages for wrongful removal from office.

(c.) For the purposes of such proceedings he shall be deemed to have been appointed to his office by the Bank 25 instead of by the Governor in Council, and to have been

removed from office by the Bank instead of by this Act. (d.) In such proceedings the Bank shall be entitled to set up any defence that would be available in an action for damages for wrongful dismissal.

(e.) The amount of damages and costs, if any, awarded to him by final judgment in such proceedings shall be paid by the Bank.

(f.) Subject to and without derogating from the foregoing provisions, nothing hereinbefore contained shall be construed as an admission or recognition that he has any right or claim to compensation or damages as against the Bank, and in no case shall he have any such right or claim as against Her Majesty.

7. Every written contract or agreement as to salary, tenure of 40 office, or otherwise howsoever, made between the Bank or the Board on the one part, and the President the Auditor, or any Inspector of the Bank on the other part, at any time subsequent to the coming into operation of "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act. 1894," is hereby declared to be void for all purposes; and no party to any such contract or agreement shall have any claim to compensation or otherwise by reason of the voiding thereof:

Struck out.

Contract as to salary, &c., of President declared void.

Proviso as to Auditor.

Provided that, in the event of the present Auditor ceasing to hold that office, and not going into the Bank's service within one year after the coming into operation of this Act, then, for the purposes of determining his claim on the Pension Fund of the Bank, he shall be deemed to have been in the service of the Bank during the whole period of his service as Auditor.

Compensation.

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8. With respect to the Board as hereinbefore constituted under Provisions as to this Act, and the members thereof, the following provisions shall Board. apply:--Struck out. (1.) The provisions of "The Disqualification Act, 1878," relating 5 to Civil servants shall apply to the directors. (2.) Out of the directors appointed by the Governor in Council Chairman. he shall appoint one to be the Chairman of the Board. (3.) The Chairman of the Board shall reside in the Wellington 10 Provincial District. New Subclauses. (1.) No person shall be eligible for appointment as a director appointed by the Governor in Council who is a member of the Legislative Council or the House of Representatives. 15 nor shall any person be eligible for such an appointment within a period of twelve months after such person shall have ceased to be a member of the Legislative Council or the House of Representatives. Any person appointed in contravention of this enactment shall be liable to a penalty 20 of fifty pounds for every day such person shall act as a director. (1A.) No Civil servant within the meaning of "The Disqualification Act, 1878," shall be eligible for appointment as a director of the bank, and no Civil servant shall be so 25 eligible until he has left the Civil Service for at least twelve months. (2.) The directors shall at their first meeting elect one of their number to be Chairman of the Board. (3.) An ordinary meeting of the Board shall be held at least Meetings and 30 once a month, and at regular periodical intervals. (4.) At all meetings of the Board (whether ordinary or special) the quorum shall be an absolute majority of all the directors who for the time being are in office. (5.) If any director fails to attend three consecutive ordinary 35 meetings of the Board his office shall thereby become vacant, unless such non-attendance has been previously consented to by the Board, or (in the case of the Chairman) is sanctioned by the Colonial Treasurer. New Clause. 8A. The Chairman of the Board shall hold his office as Chairman Chairman. for one year, or until the election of his successor, but shall be

8a. The Chairman of the Board shall hold his office as Chairman for one year, or until the election of his successor, but shall be eligible for re-election, and the office shall be filled by election at the first meeting of the Board held in the month of January in each year.

Struck out.

9. For the better government of the business and affairs of the Bank there is hereby constituted a Standing Committee (hereinafter called "the Committee") consisting of four members of the Board, and with respect to the Committee and the members thereof the following provisions shall apply:—

Standing Committee constituted:

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∠rovisions relating thereto.

(1.) The Chairman of the Board shall by virtue of his office be the Chairman of the Committee.	1
(2.) Of the other three members of the Committee one shall be	
appointed by the Governor in Council, and two shall be appointed by the Board.	5
(3.) Every member of the Committee (other than the Chairman)	
shall hold office for one year, and shall be eligible for	
reappointment.	l
(4.) Subject to regulations by the Governor in Council under this	10
Act, the Committee shall have such duties, functions, and powers as are prescribed by the Board.	10
(5.) All the functions and powers of the Committee may be	
exercised by any three members thereof.	
(6.) An ordinary meeting of the Committee shall be held at least once a week, and at regular periodical intervals.	15
(7.) Special meetings shall be held whenever the Chairman or	1
any member of the Committee thinks fit, or the General	
Manager of the Bank requests.	İ
(8.) The Committee shall keep accurate minutes of its proceedings at each meeting.	20
(9.) Such minutes shall be laid before the next meeting of the	
Board.	
(10.) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of regulations by	
the Governor in Council hereunder, the Committee may regulate its own procedure.	25
(11.) A resolution of the Board shall bind the Committee.	40
(12.) The Chairman shall have the power of veto in respect of	
any proceeding of the Committee, and every proceeding so vetoed shall be void.	
10. The seat of a member of the Committee shall become	30
vacant in any of the following events, that is to say:—	
(1.) If he ceases to be a member of the Board; or	
(2.) If, having been appointed by the Governor in Council, he resigns by notice in writing to the Governor, or is removed	
from office by the Governor; or	35
(3.) If, having been appointed by the Board, he resigns by notice	
in writing to the Board; or	
(4.) If, by whomsoever appointed, he fails to attend three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Committee, unless	
such non-attendance has been previously consented to by	40
the Committee.	
11. Whenever the seat of any member of the Committee becomes vacant, the following provisions shall apply:—	
(1.) If the member was appointed by the Governor in Council,	
the vacancy shall be filled in manner provided by subsec-	45
tion four of section four hereof.	
(2.) If the member was appointed by the Board, the Board shall fill the vacancy by appointing as his successor a director,	
who shall take office from the date of his appointment and	
hold office for one year.	50
12. If the Chairman fails to attend three consecutive ordinary	
meetings of the Committee, his seat on the Committee and also on the Board shall thereby become vacant, unless such non-attendance	
has been previously consented to by the Committee or is sanctioned	
by the Colonial Treasurer.	55

Failure of Chair-man to attend meetings of Committee.

Mode of filling vacancies on Committee.

Chairman to have power of veto.

When seat on Committee to become vacant.

9. The remuneration of the directors whilst they hold office shall be at the rates following, that is to say,-

Chairman and directors.

Remuneration of

(1.) The Chairman, such sum not exceeding one thousand pounds per annum as is fixed by the Board:

(2.) Each of the other directors, such sum not exceeding three hundred and fifty pounds per annum as is fixed by the

Struck out.

(3.) In addition to his foregoing remuneration as a director, each member of the Committee (other than the Chairman) shall, whilst holding office as such member, receive further remuneration at such rate not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds per annum as is fixed by the Board.

10. Irrespective of such remuneration the Chairman and each Travelling-expenses. 15 member attending any meeting of the Board or the Committee, or when travelling on business connected with the Bank, shall be entitled to receive in respect of such-attendance, thereof, his actual travellingexpenses according to a scale to be fixed by regulations to be made by the Board with the approval of the Colonial Treasurer.

11. With respect to all meetings of the shareholders of the

Bank, the following provisions shall apply:—

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Voting at meetings of shareholders.

(1.) No director, auditor, or solicitor of the Bank shall be qualified to vote as the proxy for any shareholder.

(2.) No proxy-holder shall, by virtue of his proxies, be qualified to exercise more than five hundred votes on any resolution.

(3.) So long as the preferred shares issued under "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895," are the property of the colony, they shall confer no right to convene, vote

at, or otherwise take part in any meeting of shareholders. (4.) On the recommendation or with the concurrence of the

Board, the Governor in Council may, in his discretion, veto any resolution passed by the shareholders:

Veto by Governor in

Provided that such veto is exercised under twentyeight days after the day on which such resolution was

(5.) Every resolution so vetoed shall be deemed to be void as from the date on which it was passed.

12. (1.) In addition to the Auditor (hereinafter called the 40 "Chief Auditor") appointed under section thirteen of "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, 1894," to act in respect of the business of the Bank in the Australasian Colonies and elsewhere outside the United Kingdom, the Governor in Council may appoint a fit person to act as Assistant Auditor in respect of such business.

Assistant Auditor to be appointed.

(2.) The salary or remuneration of the Assistant Auditor, being a sum not exceeding one thousand pounds per annum, shall be fixed and paid, and be subject to alteration, in manner prescribed by the aforesaid section thirteen in the case of the Chief Auditor.

Salary of Assistant

(3.) The Colonial Treasurer may from time to time make regu-50 lations defining the duties, functions, and powers of the Assistant Auditor.

New clause.

Transfer of shares not valid until authorised by Chief Auditor.

12A. From and after the abolition of the office of President, no transfer of shares of the Bank shall be valid until authorised in writing by the Chief Auditor, or by some person appointed by him with the approval in writing of the Colonial Treasurer; and section four of "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, 1894," shall be construed accordingly.

Composition may be accepted in respect of liability for calls.

17 13. In any case where the Board by a majority of all its members thinks it expedient in the Bank's interests so to do, it may accept from any shareholder such composition in respect of his liability for 10 calls as it thinks fit:

Proviso.

Provided that in every case the proposed composition is previously approved in writing by the Chief Auditor, and (where the liability exceeds two hundred and fifty pounds) is also sanctioned by a Judge of the Supreme Court on application by motion in that 15 behalf.

New clause.

Bank may make provision for losses or deficiencies.

13A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895," the Bank may from time to time, as and when it thinks fit, out of its profits, 20 make such provision as it deems desirable for ascertained losses or estimated deficiencies in respect of such of its assets as consist of trading concerns, properties and other assets taken over or acquired from the Bank of New Zealand Estates Company (Limited), buildings acquired from the Colonial Bank of New Zealand, good-will paid to 25 the Colonial Bank of New Zealand, and expenses incurred in connection with the conversion or payment of debentures.

How annual dividends on preferred shares to be paid.

14. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895," it is hereby declared that the annual dividends on the preferred shares issued to 30 Her Majesty under section seven thereof shall be paid by the Bank to the Agent-General of the colony in London by half-yearly instalments on the twenty-first day of June and the twenty-first day of December in each year, and the consent or authority of the shareholders shall not be necessary.

Powers of attorney, &c., in favour of Colonial Bank to be exercisable by Bank f New Zealand.

19 15. (1.) The provisions of paragraph two of section forty-two of the last-mentioned Act shall extend and apply to every power of attorney, letter of attorney, or authority, which, having been given by any person to the General Manager of the Colonial Bank of New Zealand, or to any of the managers or officers of the Colonial Bank of 40 New Zealand, authorising the said General Manager or the said managers and officers to do any act or thing for and on behalf of or in the name of the grantor thereof, was in force at the time of the transfer of the business of the Colonial Bank of New Zealand to the Bank of New Zealand.

(2.) The General Manager of the Bank of New Zealand shall be deemed to have and to have had vested in him from the time of the said transfer of the said business all the powers and authorities granted respectively by any such power of attorney, letter of attorney, or authority to the persons therein named.

(3.) The words "The General Manager of the Bank of New Zealand" in this section shall extend to and include any person for the time being acting as General Manager of the Bank of New Zealand.

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GENERAL.

20 16. The balance-sheet and statement of accounts of the Assets Assets Board Realisation Board shall be made up annually to the thirty-first day balance-sheet to be of March in each year, instead of half-yearly as provided by section half-yearly fifty-two of "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895"; and the same shall be accompanied by a report on the transactions of the year, together with such other particulars as the Governor in Council from time to time prescribes.

New clauses.

10 14B. 16A. Section fifty-three of the last-mentioned Act is hereby Bank balance-sheet repealed, and in lieu thereof it is hereby enacted that the balance- to be annual. sheet and statement of accounts of the Bank shall be made up annually to the thirty-first day of March in each year, and a copy thereof certified as correct under the hand of the Auditor shall, as 15 soon as the same is available, be laid before Parliament if in session, or, if not, then within ten days after the commencement of the nextensuing session thereof.

14a. 16B. Whereas the Bank is beneficially entitled to all the Transfer of assets assets of the Bank of New Zealand Estates Company (Limited), from Estates Company to Bank. and it is expedient to facilitate the winding-up of that company and the transfer of its assets to the Bank: Be it therefore enacted as

 ${f follows}: =$

(1.) All the assets of the said company are hereby, without the necessity of any instrument of assurance, transferred to and vested in the Bank, subject nevertheless to all encumbrances, liens, and interests affecting the same.

(2.) A certificate in writing purporting to be under the hands of two directors of the said company and two directors of the Bank, certifying that the particular asset or assets therein described are transferred to and vested in the Bank pursuant to this section, shall be conclusive evidence of the fact. And every such certificate shall be registrable as a deed within the meaning of "The Deeds Registration Act, 1868," and as an instrument within the meaning of "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," and shall be exempt

from stamp duty.

15A. 16c. Whereas amongst the assets which, pursuant to the pro-Assets Board may visions of "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895," were transfer flour-mill and land to Bank. sold by the Estates Company to, and vested in, the Assets Board, was 40 included a property described in the Schedule to that Act as "Lots 12 to 16, Section 3, Fort Street, Shortland Street, Emily Place, Auckland, with cottage and fish-house ": And whereas such description is inaccurate, inasmuch as portion of that property consists of a flour-mill and the land appurtenant thereto, 45 which should have remained in the Estates Company, and have been afterwards transferred by it to the Bank: And whereas the value of such portion was not included in the consideration passing from the Assets Board to the Company on the aforesaid sale: Now, therefore, for the purpose of 50 rectifying the error that has been made, the Assets Board is hereby empowered and directed to have the land appurtenant to the said

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flour-mill surveyed, and the boundaries thereof fixed to the mutual satisfaction of the Assets Realisation Board and the Bank, and, when such boundaries are so fixed as aforesaid, to transfer and assure to the Bank the said last-mentioned land, with the flour-mill and all other buildings erected thereon, without requiring any payment for the same. The memorandum of transfer for effectuating the purpose aforesaid shall be exempt from stamp duty.

Struck out.

Governor in Council may prescribe forms of returns to be made by banks. 21. The Governor in Council may from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, prescribe with respect to every bank within the meaning of "The Banks and Bankers Act, 1880," which carries on business in the colony, the form of the returns referred to in section six of that Act, and the items and particulars that shall be set forth in such returns, and for the purposes of this section he may, by Gazette notice, alter the First Schedule to that Act in such manner as he thinks fit.

Every bank to keep assets in colony equal to liabilities.

22. (1.) From and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, it shall be the duty of every such bank as last aforesaid to at all times keep in the colony bona fide assets at least equal in value to the amount of its total liabilities in the colony.

(2.) If default is made in faithfully complying with the foregoing provisions of this section, every director and every attorney of the defaulting bank are severally liable to a penalty of not less than ten nor more than one hundred pounds for every day during which such default continues.

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Provision for disposal of trading concerns and lands taken possession of by any bank as mortgagee, &c. 23. (1.) With respect of all trading concerns, lands, and interests in lands whereof, after the commencement of this Act, any such bank as aforesaid takes possession as mortgagee, or becomes the absolute owner in satisfaction or part satisfaction of a debt, or under any sale by a Registrar of the Supreme Court in exercise of power of sale conferred on such bank as mortgagee, it shall be the duty of such bank to bona fide absolutely sell and dispose of the same within three years after it takes possession or becomes the absolute owner of the same as aforesaid, or within such extended period as the Colonial Treasurer may in each instance authorise in writing.

Penalty for default.

(2.) If any default is made in faithfully complying with any of the foregoing provisions of this section every director and every attorney of the defaulting bank, and also the manager of the office or branch concerned in such default, are severally liable to a penalty of five pounds for each day during which such default continues.

Deed of settlement and Acts modified.

24 17. The deed of settlement of the Bank, "The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, 1894," "The Bank of New Zealand and Banking Act, 1895," and every other Act or enactment which is in any way in conflict with this Act, are hereby respectively 45 modified in so far as such conflict exists, but not further or otherwise.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington .- 1898.