

This PUBLIC BILL, originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives,
24th October, 1901.

Hon. Mr. McGowan.

COAL-MINES ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Minimum royalty on coal reduced.</p> <p>3. Right of inspection by miners extended.</p> | <p>4. Contributions to Sick and Accident Fund.</p> <p>5. Coal leases to be signed by Governor.</p> <p>6. Hours of working underground. Proviso.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Coal-mines Act, 1891."

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 Coal-mines Act Amendment Act, 1901," and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Coal-mines Act, 1891" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act").

Short Title.

2. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in subsection three of section eleven of the principal Act, in all leases granted under that Act after the commencement of this Act there shall be reserved a royalty of not less than *twopence* nor more than *one* shilling per ton on the output of all marketable coal raised under the powers of the lease; and such royalty shall not be payable on any unsaleable waste coal or rubbish.

Minimum royalty on coal reduced.

(2.) The provisions of this section relating to unsaleable waste coal or rubbish shall also apply in the case of all existing leases.

(3.) In the case of the lease of the Mokihinui Mine, dated the twenty-fifth day of September, one thousand nine hundred, which is granted to co-operative miners, royalty shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of this section.

3. (1.) Where workmen are employed in a mine, or any of the workmen so employed are members of a society formed in connection with the coal-mining industry, and registered under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," as an industrial union of workers, such workmen or society may, at their own cost, appoint any two persons to inspect the mine, whether such persons are employed in the mine to be inspected or not.

Right of inspection by miners extended.

(2.) The persons so appointed shall have full liberty to visit and inspect every part of the mine, its machinery and workings, once at least in every month,

(3.) The mine-owner and mine-manager may accompany the persons so appointed in their inspection, and shall give them full and free facilities for the inspection.

(4.) The persons so appointed shall make a full and faithful report in writing of the result of their inspection, which report shall be signed by them, and they shall furnish a copy thereof to the owner or manager of the mine, who shall cause the same to be recorded in a book kept at the office of the mine. 5

(5.) Such book shall, at all reasonable times, be open to the inspection of any Inspector under the principal Act, or workmen employed in the mine, or officer of the said society, who may take copies of or extracts from the reports recorded therein. 10

(6.) This section is in substitution of subsection forty-six of section thirty-three of the principal Act, which subsection is accordingly hereby repealed. 15

Contributions to Sick and Accident Fund.

4. The contribution payable to the Sick and Accident Fund by the owner of a coal-mine under section sixty-nine of the principal Act shall be calculated at the rate of one halfpenny per ton on all coal, except brown coal and lignite, sold during the preceding three months, and one farthing per ton on all brown coal and lignite sold during the same period. 20

Coal leases to be signed by Governor

5. Every lease granted under the principal Act shall be signed by the Governor for and on behalf of His Majesty the King; but no such lease shall be granted until the application therefor has been twice advertised at an interval of one week in some newspaper circulating in the district. 25

Hours of working underground.

6. No miner shall work longer in any day than eight hours underground in a mine; such eight hours shall commence from the time of entering such mine until such time as the miner leaves the mine: Provided that this section shall not affect any award already given under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900": Provided further that any such miner working beyond the said eight hours shall be entitled to be paid overtime. 30

Proviso.