

*Mr. Guinness.*

COAL-MINES ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title. 1. Short Title.	2. Repeal. 3. Interpretation of word "miner."
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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, 1902"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Coal-mines Act, 1891."

Short Title.

*Struck out.*

2. The words "exclusive of meal-times" in section six of "The Coal-mines Act Amendment Act, 1901," are hereby repealed.  
3. The word "miner" where used in the said section six shall mean and include every workman employed underground in a mine.

Repeal.

Interpretation of word "miner."

*New Clauses.*

2. 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 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.

Length of hours for working underground.

3. In addition to "The Coal-miners' Relief Fund" mentioned in section sixty-nine of "The Coal-mines Act, 1891," there may be established another fund, called "The Coal-miners' Medical Fund."

Coal-miners' Medical Fund.

4. The Miners' Association mentioned in paragraph one of said section sixty-nine may, for a district as mentioned in said section sixty-nine, form a Medical Club, and shall upon such formation forthwith notify (in writing or print, or partly in writing and partly in print) the coal-mine owner or owners within such district of the formation of such Medical Club.

Miners' Association may form Medical Club.

Money may be deducted from wages and paid into Medical Fund.

5. The owner of every coal-mine or coal-mines so notified shall (anything contained in any other Act notwithstanding) collect and deduct from the wages payable by him to every person employed in, upon, or about his coal-mine such sum per week as hereinafter prescribed, and shall pay such amount on the last day of each month into the Post-Office Savings-Bank which is nearest to the said mine, to the credit of an account called "The Coal-miners' Medical Fund" of the district where such mine is situated. 5

How fund may be operated on.

6. All moneys so paid into the said Medical Fund shall be operated on by the persons appointed in that behalf by the said Medical Club in accordance with the regulations to be formed as hereinafter mentioned. 10

Sum payable weekly.

7. The said Medical Club shall decide what sum per week shall be paid by each member thereof as aforesaid, and may from time to time decrease, increase, or alter such sum, and shall notify the mine-owners of the amounts so fixed for payment in such manner as provided by regulations. 15

Amendment of section 66, "Coal-mines Act, 1891."

8. Section sixty-six of "The Coal-mines Act, 1891," is hereby further amended by adding the following subsections after subsection three thereof:— 20

(4.) Regulating the formation and establishment of such Medical Clubs, and the notification of such formation to the coal-mine owner or owners. 20

(5.) Regulating the management and administration of the funds and moneys of such Medical Clubs. 25

(6.) Regulating the mode of keeping the accounts of the funds of such clubs, and of the inspection and audit of the books thereof, and the books of the coal-mine owners and Post-Office Savings-Bank in relation only to such funds and accounts. 30

(7.) To fix penalties for wilfully making default in observing such regulations, such penalties not to exceed for a first offence *five* pounds, and for a second or subsequent offence *ten* pounds. 30

(8.) And generally to make any other regulations in relation to such Medical Clubs and the funds thereof as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act. 35

Act to be read with "Coal-mines Act, 1891."

9. This Act shall be deemed to form part of and be read with "The Coal-mines Act, 1891."

State coal-mines subject to provisions of Act. Repeal.

10. Every State coal-mine shall be subject to the provisions of this Act. 40

11. Section six of "The Coal-mines Act Amendment Act, 1891," is hereby repealed.