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Mr. Colvin.

COAL-MINES ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

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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, 1903"; 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.) Subject to the provisions of any award now in force under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," a miner shall be entitled to be paid overtime when he is employed underground in a mine for more than eight hours in any day, counting from the time he enters the underground workings of the mine to the time he leaves the same.

Length of hours for working underground.

(2.) This section is in substitution for section six of "The Coal-mines Act Amendment Act, 1901," and that section and subsection three of section nine of "The Mining Act Amendment Act, 1902," are hereby repealed.

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

"The Coal-miners' Medical Fund."

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

Miners' Association may form Medical Club.

5. The owner of every coal-mine so notified shall (anything 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

Money may be deducted from wages and paid to credit of "Medical Fund."

amount on the last day of each month into the Post-Office Savings-Bank nearest to the mine, to the credit of an account called "The Coal-miners' Medical Fund" of the district where such mine is situated.

How fund may be operated on.

6. All moneys so paid into the said Medical Fund shall be operated on by the persons appointed on that behalf by the said Medical Club in accordance with the regulations to be formed as hereinafter mentioned. 5

Weekly payments by members.

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. 10

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

8. Section sixty-six of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsections after subsection three thereof:— 15

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

(5.) Regulating the management and administration of the funds and moneys of such Medical Clubs. 20

(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. 25

(7.) Fixing fines for breaches of such regulations; such fines not to exceed for a first offence *five* pounds, and for a second or subsequent offence *ten* pounds.

(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 this Act. 30

Amendment of section 33, "The Coal-mines Act, 1891."

9. Section thirty-three of the principal Act, 1891," is hereby amended by adding, at the end of subsection one thereof the words "and through each working-face."

State Coal-mines to be subject to this Act.

10. Every State coal-mine shall be subject to the provisions of this Act. 35