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[AS REPORTED FROM THE GOLD FIELDS COMMITTEE.]

(Proposed additions shown by italics or side line, elisions by erased type.)

(Mr. T. L. Shepherd.)

Gold Fields Act Amendment.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Gold Fields Act, 1866."

Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend "The Gold Fields Act, 1866" (*hereinafter termed "the said Act"*):

Preamble.

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

5 **1.** The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Gold Fields Act Amendment Act, 1875 (No. 1)," and it shall be read with and as part of the said Act.

Short Title.

10 **2.** ~~It shall be lawful for the Governor by Proclamation, at any time and from time to time, either by particular or general description, to declare any rivers streams or other watercourses or Crown lands open to the reception of tailings and debris from any gold workings or gold mining operations.~~

Streams and Crown lands may be used for deposit of mining débris.

15 **2.** It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, from time to time, by Proclamation published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, to proclaim and declare that any watercourse shall be a watercourse into which tailings mining *débris* and waste waters of every kind used in upon or discharged from any claim shall be suffered to flow or be discharged, and in like manner may withdraw any such watercourse from the operation of this Act.

Governor may declare watercourses.

20 Every such Proclamation shall prescribe a day on which the same shall take effect, being not less than ninety days from the date of the publication thereof in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Day on which it shall take effect.

25 For the purposes of this Act the term "watercourse" shall mean and include any river stream creek pool, or any portion thereof, or any tributary thereof, mentioned or included in any such Proclamation, and whether within the limits of a proclaimed gold field or not; but in any such Proclamation it shall be sufficient to describe the watercourses affected by it in general terms.

Interpretation.

Governor may make regulations.

3. The Governor in Council may, in manner provided by the eleventh section of the said Act, make alter amend or revoke regulations for the purpose of prescribing the mode and times at which such tailings mining *débris* or waste waters may be discharged or suffered to flow into any such watercourse, and may place restrictions on the exercise of any privileges by this Act conferred.

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Compensation to owners to be ascertained by arbitration.

4. Upon any such Proclamation taking effect, all persons being owners of, or having any lesser estate or interest in any lands through in or past which any such watercourse may flow, whose rights may be injuriously affected by any such Proclamation, shall be entitled to receive compensation for such damage, to be ascertained by arbitration; and for the purposes of such arbitration the Colonial Secretary, or other Minister for the time being acting for him, shall, on behalf of the Governor, be deemed to be a party to such arbitration within the meaning of the following provisions, and such compensation shall be ascertained in the manner hereinafter prescribed:

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Arbitration.

(1.) Each party shall, on the request of the other party, nominate and appoint an arbitrator to whom the question of assessing such compensation shall be referred, and every appointment of an arbitrator on the part of any other party shall be made under the hand of such party, or if such party be a corporation aggregate under the common seal of such corporation, and every such appointment shall be delivered to the arbitrator, and shall be deemed a submission to arbitration on the part of the party by whom the same shall be made; and after any such appointment shall have been made, neither party shall have power to revoke the same without the consent of the other party, nor shall the death of either party operate as a revocation; and if for the space of twenty-one days after a request in which shall be stated the matter so required to be referred to arbitration shall have been served by one party on the other party to appoint an arbitrator, such last-mentioned party fails to appoint such arbitrator, then upon such failure the party making the request and having himself appointed an arbitrator, may appoint such arbitrator to act on behalf of both parties, and such arbitrator may proceed to hear and determine the matters in dispute, and in such case the award or determination of such single arbitrator shall be final.

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(2.) If before the matters so referred shall be determined any arbitrator appointed by either party shall die or become incapable to act, the party by whom such arbitrator was appointed may nominate and appoint in writing some other person to act in his place; and if for the space of fourteen days after notice in writing from the other party he fail to do so, the remaining or other arbitrator may proceed *ex parte*: And every arbitrator so to be substituted as aforesaid shall have the same powers and authorities as were vested in the former arbitrator at the time of such his death or disability as aforesaid.

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(3.) Where more than one arbitrator shall have been appointed, such arbitrators shall, before they enter upon the matters referred to them, nominate and appoint by writing under their hands an umpire to decide on any such matters on which they shall differ or which shall be referred to him; and if such umpire shall die or become incapable to act, they shall forthwith after such death or incapacity appoint another umpire in his place, and the decision of every such umpire on the matters so referred to him shall be final.

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- 5 (4.) If in either of the cases as aforesaid the said arbitrators shall refuse, or shall for seven days after request of either party to such arbitration neglect to appoint an umpire, the Governor shall, on the application of either party to such arbitration, appoint an umpire, and the decision of such umpire on the matters on which the arbitrators shall differ, or which shall be referred to him, shall be final.
- 10 (5.) If when a single arbitrator shall have been appointed such arbitrator shall die or become incapable to act before he shall have made his award, the matters referred to him shall be determined by arbitration, as if such arbitrator had not been appointed.
- 15 (6.) If where more than one arbitrator shall have been appointed either of the arbitrators refuse, or for fourteen days neglect to act, the other arbitrator may proceed *ex parte*.
- 20 (7.) If where more than one arbitrator shall have been appointed, and where neither of them shall refuse or neglect to act as aforesaid, such arbitrators shall fail to make their award within thirty days after the day on which the last of such arbitrators shall have been appointed, or within such extended time not exceeding thirty days (if any) as shall have been appointed for that purpose by both such arbitrators under their hands, the matters referred to them shall be determined by the umpire to be appointed as aforesaid.
- 25 (8.) The said arbitrators or their umpire may call for the production of any documents in the possession or power of either party which they or he may think necessary for determining the question in dispute, and may examine the parties or their witnesses on oath, and administer the oaths necessary for that purpose.
- 30 (9.) All the costs of any such arbitration, and incident thereto, shall be in the discretion of the arbitrators or their umpire, who shall award by and to whom the same shall be paid.
- 35 (10.) Every award made with respect to any question referred to arbitration under the provisions of this Act shall be final and conclusive between the parties thereto, and shall not be set aside for irregularity or error in matter of form, or on any other ground whatsoever.

40 **5.** All claims for compensation shall be made in writing, addressed to the Governor, within six calendar months from the date of the publication of any such Proclamation as aforesaid where the claimant shall reside within the colony, and within twelve calendar months where the claimant shall reside elsewhere, and no claims for compensation shall
45 be allowed unless made within such respective periods.

Claims for compensation.

6. The compensation authorized to be given by this Act shall be paid out of the land revenue of the province in which the operation causing the pollution of the river shall be carried on, and, when so ascertained as herein provided, shall be paid thereout by warrant under
50 the hand of the Governor directed to the Colonial Treasurer, and such sum or the tender thereof shall effectually bar such person, and all persons claiming through or under him, from all further claims for or on account of the matter in respect of which such compensation is paid or tendered.

Compensation, how to be paid.

55 **7.** If any watercourse shall be withdrawn from the operation of this Act, then any person being the holder of a miner's right or of a mining lease within any proclaimed gold field, whose rights or interests shall be injuriously affected by such withdrawal, shall be entitled to compensation in respect thereof, and such compensation shall be ascertained and paid or tendered in the manner provided in the fourth and
60 sixth sections thereof.

If any watercourse withdrawn from operation of Act, compensation to be paid.

Watercourse rights reserved for miners.

8. From and after the passing of this Act no person, in respect of land thereafter purchased from the Crown, shall be deemed to have any right or title to the flow of any watercourse which shall have been at any time proclaimed under section two of this Act, and which shall run through in or upon such lands which would interfere with or prejudice the right of any holder of a miner's right or mining lease to discharge into such watercourse any tailings, mining débris, or waste water produced or used in or upon any claim as aforesaid. 5

Act not to prejudice.

9. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or taken in any manner to prejudice or interfere with any action or suit now pending in any Court of law. 10

Mining reserves.

10. 3. It shall be lawful for the Governor, by Proclamation, at any time and from time to time, and either by particular or general description, to exempt from occupation, and set apart for gold-mining purposes exclusively, any specific portion or class of Crown lands within a gold-mining district, and such exemption from time to time to revoke, and the limits and extent of such exempted land to alter, as he shall think fit. 15