

Mr. Savage.

MOTHERHOOD ENDOWMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	8. Payment to cease in certain cases.
1. Short Title.	9. Application for payment.
2. Interpretation.	10. Time and manner of payment.
3. Payment to mothers.	11. Offences and penalties.
4. Payment where mother is dead or not main- taining child.	12. Minister to administer Act.
5. Payment to widows.	13. Payment to child who is permanently in- capacitated.
6. Payment in respect of illegitimate children.	14. Sum payable not to be attached.
7. Calculation of income.	15. Regulations and orders.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Endowment of Motherhood by making Title.  
Payment to Mothers and other Persons in certain cases; to  
amend certain Acts; and for Purposes connected therewith.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Motherhood Endowment Act, Short Title.  
1925.

10 2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.

“Child” means child under fifteen years of age:

“Court of Arbitration” means the Court of Arbitration  
established by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration  
Act, 1908:

15 “Living-wage” means living-wage fixed and declared by the  
Court of Arbitration:

“Minister” means the Minister of Pensions:

“Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act or by any regula-  
tion or Order made thereunder.

20 3. (1.) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every mother of three Payment to mothers.  
or more children who are living shall be entitled to be paid, in  
respect of each child other than the first two, a sum of *ten* shillings  
per week, to be applied for or towards the maintenance of such child.

25 (2.) Where the income of the mother, or the combined income  
of the mother and her husband, is equal to or in excess of an amount,  
to be ascertained by the adding to the living-wage for the time being  
payable per week to male employees the sum of *ten* shillings in respect

of every child of such mother other than the first two, no payment shall be made under this section, and where such income is less than the amount so ascertained, no payment shall be made under this section either in excess of *ten* shillings per week in respect of each child other than the first two, or in excess of the difference between such income and the amount so ascertained. 5

(3.) No payment shall be made under this section to a mother in respect of any child who is not maintained by the mother, or by the mother and her husband.

(4.) Where payment has been made under this section to a mother who afterwards dies, the Minister may direct that any moneys which such mother, if alive, would have been entitled to receive in respect of any child, shall be paid, wholly or in part, to some person approved of by the Minister. 10

(5.) Any moneys paid in pursuance to such direction shall be applied by such person for or towards the maintenance of such child. Any such direction may be varied, or such payments may be terminated by the Minister. 15

Payment where mother is dead or not maintaining child.

4. (1.) Where the mother of any child is dead, or, if alive, is not maintaining her child, and it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that any such child is without adequate means of support, the Minister may direct payment to be made to some person approved of by him of a sum not exceeding *ten* shillings per week in respect of every such child. 20

(2.) Any moneys paid in pursuance to such direction shall be applied by such person for or towards the maintenance of such child. Any such direction may be varied, or such payments may be terminated by the Minister. 25

Payment to widows.

5. (1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act, pensions payable to widows under Part II of the Pensions Act, 1913, shall in every case be payable at the rate of *ten* shillings a week for each child in respect of whom such pension is payable, with an additional amount of *twenty-five* shillings a week. 30

(2.) Section two of the Pensions Act, 1913, is hereby amended by adding to the definition of "widow" the following words: "And shall be deemed to include a mother whose husband is not supporting her, or is incapacitated for work by physical or mental infirmity, or is undergoing a term of imprisonment: Provided that it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that such failure to support, confinement, incapacity, or term of imprisonment has continued for a period of not less than one month immediately prior to the date of any application for payment." 35 40

(3.) A widow shall not be entitled to any payment under section three of this Act.

Payment in respect of illegitimate children.

6. (1.) Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that any illegitimate child who is under fifteen years of age is without adequate means of support, the Minister may direct payment to be made to the mother of such child, or to some person approved of by him, of a sum not exceeding *ten* shillings per week in respect of every such child. 45 50

(2.) Any moneys paid in pursuance to such direction shall be applied by such mother or person for or towards the maintenance of

such child. Any such direction may be varied, or such payments may be terminated by the Minister.

5 7. (1.) Benefits or sick-pay received during illness by any person from the funds or under the rules of a friendly society shall not be deemed, for the purpose of section *three* or section *five*, to be part of the income of such person, but the income of a person, for the purpose of the said sections, shall be deemed to include *five* per centum of the capital value, as assessed in the manner prescribed, of any land or buildings owned and used, or used rent free by such person :

Calculation of income.

10 Provided that in the calculation of the income of a person under any such assessment, a deduction may be made of any interest paid by such person during the period prescribed on a mortgage of such land or buildings.

15 (2.) For the purpose of determining the income of a person, a calculation may be made of the income which such person has received or was entitled to receive during such period as may be prescribed, including the value of any board or lodging given to such person in part payment of wages or otherwise.

20 8. (1.) Any mother or widow—

Payment to cease in certain cases.

(a.) Who is convicted of an offence against this Act or any regulation or order made thereunder ; or

(b.) Who fails at any time, when so required, to satisfy the Minister—

25 (i.) That she is a person of good character and repute ;  
 (ii.) That she is not incapacitated by physical or mental infirmity from discharging the duties incident to the care, control, and management of a child ; or  
 (iii.) That she is expending to his satisfaction moneys paid to her under this Act,

30 shall cease forthwith to be entitled to further payments thereunder.

(2.) In any such case the Minister may, in his discretion, direct that any moneys, which the mother or widow would otherwise have been entitled to receive, shall be paid, wholly or in part, to some person approved of by the Minister. Any such direction may be varied, or such payments may be terminated by the Minister.

35 9. (1.) All applications for payment shall be made in the form, within the time, at the place, and in the manner prescribed, and shall be accompanied by such proof or verified in such manner as may be prescribed.

Application for payment.

40 (2.) No payments shall be made unless and until such proof or verification shall have been accepted as satisfactory by the Minister, or by some person authorized by him in that behalf.

45 10. All payments shall be made at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed.

Time and manner of payment.

11. Any person who—

Offences and penalties.

(a.) Refuses to answer, or knowingly makes a false or misleading answer to, any relevant question put to him by the Minister, or by any person in the exercise of duties and powers entrusted to him under this Act ; or

50 (b.) Knowingly signs or delivers, or causes to be signed or delivered, any document containing any false or misleading statement as to any relevant matter ; or

(c.) Fraudulently obtains, or attempts to obtain, payment of any moneys under this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding *six* months, or to both penalty and imprisonment. 5

Minister to administer Act.

Payment to child who is permanently incapacitated.

12. The administration of this Act is vested in the Minister.

13. Any payment made under this Act in respect of any child who, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner appointed by the Minister, is permanently incapacitated, may be continued, subject to the approval of the Minister, notwithstanding that the child has 10 passed the age of fifteen.

Sum payable not to be attached.

14. No order shall be made by any Court or Justice for the attachment of any sum payable to any person under this Act.

Regulations and orders.

15. (1.) The Governor-General in Council may, subject to this Act, make such regulations or orders, whether general or to meet 15 particular cases, as may be necessary or convenient for administering and carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

(2.) Such regulations and orders may fix a penalty not exceeding *twenty* pounds, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding *three* 20 months, for any breach thereof. Any such penalty may be recovered before, or any such imprisonment may be imposed by, any Stipendiary Magistrate.

(3.) All such regulations and orders shall be published in the *Gazette*, and if not disallowed as hereinafter provided shall have the 25 force of law.

(4.) All such regulations and orders on being gazetted shall be laid before the House of Representatives within fourteen days if the Parliament is then sitting, and if Parliament is not then sitting, within fourteen days after the next meeting of Parliament. But if 30 the House of Representatives passes a resolution, of which notice has been given at any time within *fifteen* sitting days after such regulations or orders have been laid before such House, disallowing any regulation or order, or any part thereof, such regulation or order, or part thereof, shall thereupon cease to have effect.