

Mr. J. Hutcheson.

McLEAN LIGHT LOCOMOTIVES.

[PRIVATE BILL.]

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to authorise William McLean to use Light Locomotives, and to authorise the Storage of Inflammable Substances used in driving the same. Title.

5 WHEREAS William McLean, of Wellington, Commission Agent, acting for himself and others, lately arranged for the introduction into the colony of motor-cars, and the establishment of agencies in the colony for the importation and use of the same, and two of such motor-cars have been imported, and there has been paid in respect thereof Customs duty: And whereas it is doubtful whether in the existing state of the law the same can be lawfully used on the public roads and streets: And whereas it is expedient that power should be given to the said William McLean and others to use the said motor-cars and other motors of a like description. Preamble.

15 BE IT THEREFORE 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 McLean Light Locomotives Act, 1898." Short Title.

20 2. In this Act the following expressions shall all have the meanings assigned to them respectively:— Interpretation.

(1.) "Promoters" means the said William McLean and any company which may acquire his rights and also his or their assigns or licensees.

25 (2.) "Light locomotive" means any vehicle propelled by mechanical power which unladen is under three tons in weight, either used alone or for the purpose of drawing one vehicle and no more of such weight that the combined weight of the two when unladen shall not exceed

four tons, such vehicle being so constructed that no smoke or visible vapour is emitted therefrom except from some temporary or accidental cause.

Light locomotive used by promoters deemed a carriage.

3. A light locomotive used or hired by the promoters shall be deemed to be a carriage within the meaning of any Act and of any rule, regulation, or by-law made thereunder, and, if used as a carriage of any class, shall be deemed to be a carriage of that class.

Light locomotives may be used.

4. It shall be lawful for the promoters to use light locomotives in any county, borough, or road district, subject only to the by-laws or regulations generally affecting vehicles; and it is declared that the provisions of "The Police Offences Act, 1884," and "The Police Offences Act Amendment Act, 1890," or any other enactments relating to traction-engines, shall not apply to light locomotives used or hired by the promoters. 10

Fuel, &c., not included in weight.

5. In calculating for the purposes of this Act the weight of a vehicle unladen, the weight of any water-fuel accumulators used for the purpose of propulsion shall not be included. 15

Lights to be used.

6. During the period between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise the person in charge of a light locomotive shall carry attached thereto a lamp so constructed and placed as to exhibit a light in accordance with the regulations to be made by the Governor in Council. 20

Bell to be carried.

7. Every light locomotive shall carry a bell or other instrument capable of giving audible and sufficient warning of the approach or position of the carriage. 25

Greatest speed twelve miles.

8. No light locomotive shall travel along a public highway at a greater speed than ~~fourteen~~ twelve miles an hour, or than any less speed that may be prescribed by regulations.

Petroleum may be stored according to regulations.

9. The keeping and use of petroleum, or of any other inflammable liquid or fuel, for the purpose of light locomotives shall be subject to regulations made by the Governor in Council, and regulations so made shall have effect, notwithstanding anything in any Act relating to petroleum or other inflammable liquid or fuel. 30

Governor in Council may make regulations.

10. The Governor in Council may make regulations with respect to the use of light locomotives on ways or streets by the promoters, and their construction, and the conditions under which they may be used. Regulations under this section may be of a local nature and limited in their application to a particular area, and may, on the application of any local authority, prohibit or restrict the use of locomotives for purposes of traction in crowded streets or in other places where such use may be attended with danger to the public. All regulations under this section ~~Act~~, not inconsistent with regulations or by-laws made by any local authority affecting vehicles generally, shall have full effect, notwithstanding anything in any other Act, whether general or local, or any by-laws or regulations made thereunder. Every regulation purporting to be made in pursuance of this section shall be laid before each House at its then or next sitting. Until such regulations are made the regulations in the Schedule shall be regulations in force. 45

Penalty.

11. A breach of any by-law or regulation made under this Act or of any provision of this Act may on summary conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding ten pounds. 50

12. After the passing of this Act there shall be granted, charged, and paid to the local authority issuing the license in respect thereof for every light locomotive which is plying for hire under this Act,— Fees to be charged.

5 If the weight of the locomotive does not exceed two tons unladen, the same license-fee as is payable for carriages of a like class ;

If the weight of the locomotive exceeds two tons unladen, half more.

New clauses.

10 13. The said William McLean or his assigns shall, upon payment of the fee hereinafter fixed, whenever so required to do, from time to time issue to any person requiring the same a license or licenses to use, under the provisions of this Act and the regulations to be issued thereunder, one or more light locomotives to be mentioned therein. There shall be payable to the said William McLean or his 15 assigns, as the case may be, in respect of each light locomotive so licensed the sum of three pounds. Power to issue license.

20 14. This Act shall remain in force only until a public Act dealing with the subject of light locomotives shall have come into force, and the promoters shall have no claim to compensation upon the passage of any such public Act. Duration of Act.

REGULATIONS.

1. Light locomotives shall be capable of being guided by a person sitting thereon.
2. The tire of each wheel must not be less than 2½ in. in width.
3. Every light locomotive and every carriage drawn thereby, shall have, for every two wheels, one brake ; and all brakes shall be so arranged as to be under the control of some competent person.
4. The width of a locomotive must not exceed more than 6½ ft.
5. Every light locomotive shall have conspicuously painted on its right side either a number or mark, registered at the office of the local body authority where it is licensed in the name of the owner. The weight of every light locomotive must also be similarly painted on the right side thereof.
6. The greatest speed at which light locomotives shall be allowed to travel shall be as follows: provided in the Act, but any local body authority having jurisdiction over streets or roads may, by a resolution, of which notice shall be given to the holder of any license, or by by-law limit the speed over any crowded thoroughfare to eight miles, or less, either during the whole day or a portion thereof.
7. The name of the owner and driver of any vehicle shall be given to any constable requiring the same, or to any other person upon any reasonable request made for the same.