

Mr. Joyce.

SHOP HOURS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the Limitation of the Hours of Trading in Shops.

Title.

WHEREAS the health of many persons engaged in various retail trades is seriously injured by reason of the long hours of business, and it is expedient to limit such hours :

Preamble.

BE IT THEREFORE 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 Shop Hours Act, 1888.”

Short Title.

2. After the expiration of *three* months from the passing of this Act all retail shops in the colony, except those mentioned in the Schedule to this Act, shall be closed except during the hours from *six* o'clock a.m. till *six* o'clock p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, besides that such shops may remain open on Saturdays until *ten* o'clock p.m. : Provided also that on any day next preceding a public holiday such shops may remain open until *ten* o'clock in the evening.

Commencement of Act.

When shops shall be closed.

3. A shop in which trades of two or more kinds are carried on shall be closed for the purpose of all such trades at the hour at which it is by this Act required to be closed for the purpose of any of them.

No excuse for keeping shop open after prescribed hours though two or more kinds of trade carried on therein.

4. No employer shall permit an employé to remain in any retail shop or premises later than one hour after the prescribed time of closing, except for the purpose of stock-taking.

No employé to be allowed to remain in shop beyond one hour after time of closing.

5. This Act shall not apply to—

Exemptions.

(a.) Chemists or druggists selling or supplying medicines, drugs, or medicinal appliances after the hour appointed by this Act for closing of shops :

(b.) Nor to the occupier of any shop or premises supplying any article to any person lodging in such premises, or for provisioning any mail steamer, or supplying anything in case of sickness :

(c.) Nor to render unlawful the continuance in a shop after the hour appointed for the closing thereof of any customers who were in the shop immediately before that hour, or the serving of such customers, not later than one hour after the time of closing.

Penalties.

6. Any person or company offending against any of the provisions of this Act shall, on a summary conviction before any two Justices of the Peace, be fined any sum not less than *two* pounds nor more than *five* pounds for a first offence, and not less than *five* pounds nor more than *ten* pounds for any subsequent offence.

An employé infringing this Act with the knowledge of his employer to bear the punishment.

7. Where the occupier of a shop is charged with an offence against this Act, he shall be entitled, upon written application duly made by him, to have any agent or servant whom he charges as the actual offender brought before the Court at the time appointed for hearing the charge ; and if, after the commission of the offence is proved, the Court is satisfied that the said agent or servant committed the offence in question without the knowledge, consent, or connivance or wilful neglect or default of the said occupier, the said occupier shall be exempt from any fine, and the said agent or servant shall be liable to the same fine as if he were the occupier, and may be proceeded against accordingly.

Procedure.

8. All offences against this Act shall be prosecuted, and all fines under this Act shall be recovered, in like manner as offences and fines are prosecuted and recovered under "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1882," or any amendment thereof.

Interpretation.

9. In this Act the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say,—

"Shop" means any building or portion of a building, booth, stall, or place within any city or borough, or within two miles thereof respectively, where goods are exposed or offered for sale by retail :

"Premises" means any room or warehouse within a city or borough, or within two miles thereof respectively :

"Closed" means not opened for the serving of any customer.

"Public holiday" means New Year's Day, Good Friday and the Monday following, the birthday of the reigning Sovereign of the United Kingdom, the birthday of the Prince of Wales, and Christmas Day ; and in case any of such days falls on a Sunday then for the purposes of this Act the next following day shall be deemed to be a public holiday.

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

Houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Refreshment-houses, wherein nothing shall be sold but such eatables and drinkables consumed by the purchasers in such refreshment-houses.

Newspaper offices.