

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

SUNDAY LABOUR IN MINES PREVENTION.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to prevent the Unnecessary Employment of Manual Labour in Mines on Sundays. 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 Sunday Labour in Mines Prevention Act, 1897." Short Title.

2. Except in cases where the previous authority in writing of an Inspector of Mines has been obtained, it shall not be lawful for any person or company to directly or indirectly employ any workman on Sunday for hire or reward to do any skilled or unskilled manual labour in or about any mine within the meaning of "The Mining Act, 1891," or "The Coal-mines Act, 1891." Employment of manual labour in mines on Sunday prohibited.

3. The No Inspector of Mines shall not give any such authority as aforesaid except in cases where he is satisfied that the labour cannot be suspended on Sunday without risk of injury to the mine or its operations; and, when giving such authority, he shall in each case *state in writing his reasons for granting such authority, and shall specify the number of workmen that may be employed and the nature of their employment, and the period during which such authority shall extend.* Cases in which Inspector may grant permission.

New clause.

4. There shall be the right of appeal to the Warden of the mining district from the decision of any Inspector of Mines in respect of the granting or refusing of an authority under sections *two or three* of this Act. Right of appeal.

5. If any workman is employed in breach of this Act, the person or company employing him, and also, where the employer is a company, the mine-manager and every director thereof, are severally liable to a penalty not exceeding ~~one~~ *five* pounds: Penalty for breach of Act.

No. 53.—2.

What a sufficient
defence.

Provided that it shall be a sufficient defence to a prosecution under this Act if the ~~defendant satisfies the~~ Court is satisfied that the employment was rendered necessary by reason of breakage or other special emergency involving danger to life or damage to property.

Not to affect other
provision.

5- 6. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the operation of section sixteen of "The Police Offences Act, 1884": 5

Provided that no person shall be punished twice for the same offence.

New clause.

Date of coming into
operation.

7. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of 10
January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.