

Mr. Payne.

WORKERS' MINIMUM WAGE.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for securing to the Worker a Minimum Living Wage. Title.
 BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

- 5 1. This Act may be cited as the Workers' Minimum Wage Act, 1912. Short Title.
2. The term "worker" shall include all those who are dependent on wages or salary for the purpose of providing the necessities and luxuries of life. Interpretation.
- 10 3. Every worker of the Dominion, being over the age of twenty-four years and under the age of sixty years, shall receive a weekly wage at a rate of not less than three pounds per week for a week of forty-four hours. Minimum weekly wage.
- 15 4. Workers doing casual work, and who from the nature of their work are prevented from obtaining a minimum wage of three pounds per week of forty-four hours, shall present themselves to the Department of Labour nearest to their place of residence at seven o'clock in the morning of any day on which their customary employment is not available, and each worker so presenting himself shall be entitled to receive one day's pay at the minimum-wage rate of three pounds weekly. Workers receiving less than minimum weekly wage may receive one day's pay from Labour Department.
- 20 5. Workers claiming minimum-wage pay under section *four* hereof shall do and perform such tasks and duties as the officer in charge of the Labour Department may provide; and, when work is not immediately available, such worker shall stay in attendance at the office of the Labour Department at which he claims minimum-wage rate for the full eight hours, with the customary time off for the midday meal. Workers claiming minimum wage may be called upon by Labour Department to perform certain duties.

Date of coming
into operation of
Act.

6. The coming into operation of this Act shall be delayed for three months from the date of its passing, for the purpose of re-arranging Customs duties, where necessary, to enable the extra wages charge to be made on the commodity affected in any particular industry.

Charges on com-
modities affected
by Act.

7. No charge shall be made on commodities affected by this Act to an extent greater than is necessary to cover the actual amount of increased wages charge.

Revenue.

8. Revenue for the purpose of this Bill to be provided by imposing a super charge equal to the amount of the annual expenditure under this Bill upon incomes of amounts exceeding one thousand pounds taxable balance, proportioned in accordance with such graduated income-tax scale as may be for the time being in force.