

1915

Mr. Payne.

WORKERS' RIGHT TO WAGES AND WORK.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to secure to the Workers of the Dominion the Right to be free from the Possibility of Unemployment. Title.

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 Workers' Right to Wages and Work Act, 1912. Short Title.

2. The term "worker" shall include all persons having attained the age of twenty-four years, and being under sixty years of age, who depend on wages or salary for the purpose of purchasing the necessities of life. Interpretation.

3. Each male worker of the Dominion having been resident therein for a period of not less than five years prior to the date of such worker's application for the benefits of this Act shall, after being unsuccessful in obtaining employment for a period of seven clear days between his last employment and his application hereunder, receive from the officer in charge of the nearest labour bureau, as an absolute right, a payment of three pounds weekly as long as such applicant continues out of employment. Male workers' weekly payment when unemployed.

4. That each female worker of the Dominion having been resident therein for a period of not less than five years prior to the date of such worker's application for the benefits of this Act, and being unsuccessful in obtaining employment for a period of seven clear days between the date of her last employment and her application hereunder, shall receive from the officer in charge of the nearest labour bureau the sum of one pound ten shillings weekly, so long as such applicant continues out of employment. Female workers' weekly payment when unemployed.

Workers liable to be called on to work.

5. That each worker receiving the benefits of this Act under sections *three* and *four* hereof shall do such labour and perform such duties as the officers in charge of labour bureaux shall be able to provide from time to time.

Nature of work.

6. The officers in charge of labour bureaux shall always consider the worker's capacity for performing the work available, and shall reasonably endeavour to provide such employment as the physical condition of the worker, male or female, will enable him or her to pursue without undue physical suffering. 5

Free passes to workers and their families.

7. Officers in charge of labour bureau shall supply free railway passes to workers who may be allotted work on Government undertakings situate at a distance from the place wherein the worker is resident. Passes to include the free carriage of wife and children of male workers. The Minister of Railways to supply passes to officers in charge of labour bureaux to carry out the provisions of this section of the Act. 10 15

Worker to continue to work for three months before applying for change of employment.

8. Each worker receiving the benefits of this Act, and being allotted work in accordance with the provisions hereof, shall faithfully perform such duties or do such labour as officers in charge of labour bureaux may provide for a period of not less than three months; after which period the worker may apply for and be entitled to receive a transfer to such more suitable employment as may then be available: 20

Provided always that where a worker can secure employment in his or her trade or calling after being the recipient of the benefits of this Act for not less than seven clear days such worker shall be released from his or her obligations as herein set forth; but such worker shall not again be eligible to apply or and receive the benefits of this Act until a period of three months has elapsed from the date of the worker's voluntary withdrawal from the provisions of this Act. 25 30

Return railway passes.

9. Officers in charge of labour bureaux shall issue return railway-passes to workers who have been sent to a distance from their usual place of residence when such worker, male or female, elects to withdraw from the benefits of this Act in accordance with the provisions of section *eight* hereof. 35

How revenue to be raised.

10. The revenue necessary for the carrying-out of the provisions of this Act shall be provided by imposing a super charge equal to the amount of the annual expenditure under the provisions of this Act upon incomes of amounts exceeding one thousand pounds taxable balance, proportioned in accordance with such graduated income tax scale for the time being in force. 40

Private registry offices to cease after passing of this Act.

11. On the coming into operation of this Act, private registry-offices shall cease to exist, and no person may carry on the business of acting as an agent between the employer and the worker other than the officers in charge of bureaux, to whom is delegated the carrying-out of the provisions of this Act. 45

Penalty.

12. A minimum penalty of *fifty* pounds shall be imposed upon any person or persons convicted of acting as employment agents contrary to the provisions of section *eleven* of this Act.