

Supplementary Order Paper.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 13th Day of December, 1913.

LABOUR DISPUTES INVESTIGATION BILL.

Hon. Mr. BELL, in Committee, to move the following amendments :—

To insert, after clause 11, the following new clauses :—

Secret ballot of
employers to
be taken.

11A. (1.) If a settlement of the dispute is not arrived at within fourteen days after the delivery of a notice to the Minister pursuant to the *last preceding* section, the Minister shall, whenever in his opinion the employers who are directly concerned in the matter of the dispute consist of persons whose votes can be taken within a reasonable space of time, direct the Registrar to cause a secret ballot of such employers to be conducted in the prescribed manner,—

- (a.) Where recommendations for the settlement of the dispute have not been made by a Labour Dispute Committee, on the question whether a lockout shall take place; or
- (b.) Where recommendations for the settlement of the dispute have been made, on the question whether the said recommendations shall be adopted.

(2.) On the application of any employer who is entitled to vote at the ballot that scrutineers should be appointed, the Registrar shall appoint not more than two scrutineers for each polling-place, and such scrutineers may be present at such polling-place while the ballot is being conducted.

(3.) Where an employer, party to a dispute, is a registered company or other body corporate, the shareholders or members thereof for the time being resident in New Zealand shall severally be deemed to be employers directly concerned in the matter of the dispute, and shall be entitled accordingly to vote at a ballot under this section.

(4.) The decision of the Registrar as to whether any employer, party to the dispute, is or is not directly concerned in the matter of the dispute shall be final and conclusive.

(5.) If any person interrupts or interferes with the conduct of a secret ballot under this section, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *ten* pounds.

(6.) The Registrar shall, as soon as practicable, ascertain the result of the ballot, and shall forthwith notify the result by notice published in such newspaper or newspapers circulating in the district as he thinks fit.

When lockout
deemed to be
unlawful after
ballot taken.

11B. Where a ballot of employers directly concerned in the matter of the dispute has been taken under the *last preceding* section, then, if any such employer takes part in a lockout of any workers to whom this Act applies—

- (a.) Without the notice referred to in section *eleven* hereof having been given and before the expiration of seven days after the publication as aforesaid of the result of a secret ballot under the *last preceding* section; or
- (b.) At any time before the expiration of the currency of an agreement under section *eight* hereof entered into by or on behalf of that employer and filed as provided by that section,—

he shall be deemed to be party to an unlawful lockout, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *five* hundred pounds.

Clause 12: To insert at the commencement thereof the words "Where a ballot of the employers directly concerned in the matter of the dispute has not been taken as hereinbefore provided, then."