

to the best of my skill and ability, perform the duties imposed upon me in my capacity as (1) a member of the staff of the Native Trust Office, or (2) an Agent of the Native Trustee; and that in the performance of my said duties I will hold myself bound not to divulge or communicate any matter or thing coming to my knowledge appertaining to the business of the Native Trust Office, or to the affairs of any estates under its administration, or in relation to the private affairs of any person concerned therein, to any person whomsoever, except as may be authorized by law to a person directly interested and entitled to information, or for the purpose of assisting to carry out the powers and functions of the Native Trustee and my own proper duties.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously binding myself to adhere to and observe the same.

(Signature.)

Declared at _____, this _____ day of _____, 19 _____, before me—A Justice of the Peace or Solicitor of the Supreme Court.

F. D. THOMSON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Regulations under the Coal-mines Act, 1908, amended.

JELlicoe, Governor-General.

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

At the Government House at Wellington, this 12th day of April, 1921.

Present :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

IN pursuance and exercise of all powers, and authorities conferred upon him by the Coal-mines Act, 1908, His Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion of New Zealand, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of the said Dominion, doth hereby make the following additional regulations and amendments to the regulations made under the said Act on the twenty-sixth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen, and gazetted on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen; and doth hereby declare that the additional regulations and amendments to the said regulations hereby made shall come into force on the date of the gazetting hereof.

REGULATIONS.

REGULATION No. 2 is hereby revoked, and the following substituted therefor:—

2. (a.) Each member of the Board who is not otherwise employed in any Department of the Public Service shall receive by way of travelling-expenses the sum of £1 11s. for each day of twenty-four hours he is absent from his place of abode for the purpose of attending at a meeting of the Board, or for the purpose of conducting underviewers' and firemen-deputies' examinations.

(b.) For any portion of a day he shall receive one twenty-fourth of the full daily rate for each hour's absence.

(c.) In computing the time of absence a fraction of an hour if less than half an hour shall not be taken into account, but half an hour or more shall be reckoned as one hour.

(d.) He shall also be repaid all reasonable sums properly expended by him for fares by railway, coach, or steamer in travelling for the said purposes.

(e.) Each member of the Board who is not otherwise employed in any Department of the Public Service shall also be paid such fee as the Minister may from time to time authorize for each examination held or for each paper set by him.

Regulation 22 is amended by adding the words "from working as a coal-miner" after the words "permanently disabled."

Regulation 29 (1) is amended by adding the words "from working as a coal-miner" after the words "permanently disabled."

Regulation 56 (c) is amended by adding the following words "In the foregoing paragraph 'face' shall mean the point of commencement of the most advanced holing or side cutting, or, if none exists, the most advanced point of the place."

Regulation 82A (made on the 12th April, 1920) is hereby revoked.

Regulation 127 (d) is amended by the deletion of the words "(except in the case of nitro-glycerine compounds, when the distance below the hole shall not be less than three feet)."

154B. (1.) In every mine in which permitted explosives are required to be used an adequate amount of ventilation, as provided in paragraph (1) set out in section 8 of the Coal-mines Amendment Act, 1914, as amended by section 7 (1) of the Coal-mines Amendment Act, 1920, shall be produced continuously during the whole of the time such mine is being worked, notwithstanding any temporary cessation of work at night or on Sundays or at any other time.

(2.) At all other mines all mechanical ventilation appliances shall be started and continuously run to their usual running-capacity for not less than two hours before any person enters

the mine, and continuing during the whole of the time any person is in the mine.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST COALDUST.

Regulation 155 of the principal regulations is hereby amended by deleting paragraph (3), and substituting the following paragraphs:—

(3.) The incombustible dust used for the purpose of the preceding regulation shall contain not less than 50 per cent. by weight of fine material capable, when dry, of passing a sieve with 200 meshes to the linear inch (40,000 to the square inch); provided that if a larger proportion of incombustible dust is used than is required under the foregoing regulation, the percentage of fine material aforesaid contained in the incombustible dust may be reduced proportionately, but shall not fall below 25.

(4.) For the purposes of testing the composition of the dust mixture in any part of a road, the following procedure shall be adopted:—

(a.) Representative samples of the dust shall be collected from the floor, roof, and sides over an area of road not less than fifty yards in length.

(b.) The samples collected shall be well mixed, and a portion of the mixture shall be sieved through a piece of metallic gauze having a mesh of 28 to the linear inch.

(c.) A weighed quantity of the dust which has passed through the sieve shall be dried at 212° F., and the weight lost shall be reckoned as moisture. The sample shall then be brought to a red heat in an open vessel until it no longer loses weight. The weight so lost by incineration shall be reckoned as combustible matter for the purposes of the test:

Provided that in the case of dusts to which the foregoing test would not be applicable, the test shall be such as may be approved by the Minister of Mines.

If any dispute arises as to the test which should be applied, it shall be determined by the Chief Inspector.

Representative tests shall be made by the management at intervals of not less than six months, and the results shall be posted at the mine-mouth or pit-head.

(5.) No dust shall be used for the purpose of complying with these regulations of a kind which may be prohibited by the Minister of Mines on the ground that it would be injurious to the health of persons working in the mine; provided that if any dispute arises as to whether the dust is injurious it shall be determined by the Chief Inspector.

(6.) This part of the regulations shall not come into force until the 30th September, 1921; provided that if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Inspector of Mines of the district, in regard to any mine, that it has not been practicable by that date to obtain the necessary plant for carrying out the regulations, the Inspector may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, allow such extension of time as shall appear to him to be reasonably required.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF COAL.

179. The following provisions shall apply to any mine or part of a mine in which safety-lamps are required by section 40, paragraph (46), of the Coal-mines Act, as amended, to be used, and to any other mine where the Minister of Mines directs that they shall apply in view of the conditions existing in that mine.

(1.) On the appearance in any part of the mine of smoke or other sign indicating that a fire has or may have broken out below ground, every workman other than those necessarily engaged in dealing with the emergency shall be withdrawn from the ventilating district or districts affected, and before any workman is re-admitted into the district or districts affected the manager or underviewer, accompanied by the fireman-deputy, shall examine the district or districts, and shall make a full and accurate report of the condition of the district or districts, and no workman shall be re-admitted unless the manager or underviewer making the examination report the mine to be safe. Every such report shall be signed by the persons making the examination, and shall indicate, if possible, by means of a plan, the situation of the fire. The report shall be kept at the office of the mine. The reports made by the responsible official appointed to supervise the affected area shall be posted up at the mine-mouth or pit-head at the end of each shift for the information of the workmen.

(2.) When the existence of a fire has been definitely ascertained, every workman, except those engaged in combating the fire, shall be withdrawn from the seam in which the fire exists and from every other seam communicating with the shaft on the same level, and shall not be re-admitted until an examination has been made and the seam or seams reported to be safe in the manner indicated above:

Provided that—

(a.) It shall not be necessary to withdraw the workmen on the intake side of the fire if the seam or, in cases to which proviso (b) applies, the ventilating district in which the fire exists is naturally wet throughout,