

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' ACCOMMODATION.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Proper Accommodation of Agricultural Labourers. 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 Agricultural Labourers' Accommodation Act, 1907. Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—
10 "Agricultural labourer" includes every person employed by an employer in agricultural or pastoral work of any kind, but does not include a shearer : Interpretation.

"Employer" means and includes any master, manager, foreman, overseer, or other person having the control or superintendence of any agricultural labourer : Appointment of Inspectors.

15 "Inspector" means an Inspector appointed under the Factories Act, 1894 (hereinafter referred to as the Factories Act), or under this Act.

20 3. The Governor may from time to time appoint Inspectors under this Act, and define the districts over which they shall respectively exercise supervision, or may assign the duty of such supervision, within such area as he directs, to any Inspector appointed under the Factories Act.

25 4. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, every Inspector shall have the right of ingress and egress to and from any land or place on or in which any agricultural labourer is employed ; and every person who obstructs any Inspector in the exercise of his duty, or refuses him ingress or egress, is liable to a fine not exceeding *twenty* pounds. Penalty for obstructing an Inspector.

30 5. (1.) In any case where no provision is made for the accommodation of the agricultural labourers employed, or where the provision made is deemed by the Inspector to be inadequate, he Proper accommodation to be provided.

shall require the employer to provide, amend, or enlarge the same, in accordance with the requirements of this Act, within a time to be specified in a notice in writing in that behalf.

(2.) Such notice may be served on the employer personally, or by leaving the same at his usual or last known place of residence. 5

(3.) If any employer neglects to comply with the terms of such notice, the Inspector may lay an information or make complaint of a breach of this Act, and may apply for an order as hereinafter mentioned.

Magistrate may make order.

6. (1.) Upon application of an Inspector for an order under this Act against any employer, a Magistrate shall hear and determine the same; and if after inquiry into the case the Magistrate finds that no accommodation is provided, or is of opinion that the accommodation provided by the employer is improper or insufficient, he may determine as to what accommodation or what further accommodation, as the case may be, shall be provided by such employer. 10 15

(2.) Every employer who fails to comply with any such order within such time as is thereby appointed is liable to a fine not exceeding *twenty-five* pounds, and to a further fine not exceeding *two* pounds for every day during which such default continues. 20

Separate sleeping-accommodation for Chinese.

7. Where any agricultural labourer is of the Chinese race, the employer shall provide separate and distinct sleeping-accommodation from that provided for other agricultural labourers, and any employer who fails so to do is liable to the penalties set forth in the *last preceding* section. 25

Information for penalty, &c., to be laid in nearest Magistrate's Court.

8. Every information or complaint under this Act shall be laid or made and heard, and all proceedings consequent thereon or incidental thereto shall be had and taken, in the manner provided by the Justices of the Peace Act, 1882, before the Magistrate holding a Court nearest to the residence of the defendant employer. 30

No appeal from Magistrate.

9. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Act, there shall be no right of appeal to the Supreme or any other Court from the order or determination of any Magistrate made under this Act.

Act not to apply in certain cases.

10. This Act shall not apply in the case of agricultural labourers whose ordinary residences are in the immediate neighbourhood of the land on which they are employed, and who sleep at their own homes. 35

Accommodation to be provided.

11. For the purposes of this Act accommodation shall be deemed to be sufficient if it consists of—

- (a.) A sufficient waterproof tent; or
- (b.) A building, portable or otherwise, containing two hundred and forty cubic feet of air-space for each person to be accommodated therein. 40