

Hon. Mr. McGowan.

COAL-MINES ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Coal-mines Act, 1891."

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand
in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as
5 follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Coal-mines Act Amend-
ment Act, 1901," and it shall form part of and be read together with
"The Coal-mines Act, 1891" (hereinafter referred to as "the princi-
pal Act").

Short Title.

10 2. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in subsection three of section
eleven of the principal Act, in all leases granted under that Act after
the commencement of this Act there shall be reserved a royalty of
not less than *twopence* nor more than *one* shilling per ton on the
output of all marketable coal raised under the powers of the lease;
15 and such royalty shall not be payable on any unsaleable waste coal
or rubbish.

Minimum royalty
on coal reduced.

(2.) The provisions of this section relating to unsaleable waste
coal or rubbish shall also apply in the case of all existing leases.

20 (3.) In the case of the lease of the Mokihiui Mine, dated the
twenty-fifth day of September, one thousand nine hundred, which is
granted to co-operative miners, royalty shall be paid in accordance
with the provisions of this section.

Struck out.

25 3. (1.) Where workmen are employed in a mine, or any of the
workmen so employed are members of a society formed in connection
with the coal-mining industry, and registered under "The Industrial
Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900," as an industrial union of
workers, such workmen or society may, at their own cost, appoint any
two persons to inspect the mine, whether such persons are employed
30 in the mine to be inspected or not.

Right of inspection
by miners extended.

(2.) The persons so appointed shall have full liberty to visit and
inspect every part of the mine, its machinery and workings, once at
least in every month,

(3.) The mine-owner and mine-manager may accompany the persons so appointed in their inspection, and shall give them full and free facilities for the inspection.

(4.) The persons so appointed shall make a full and faithful report in writing of the result of their inspection, which report shall be signed by them, and they shall furnish a copy thereof to the owner or manager of the mine, who shall cause the same to be recorded in a book kept at the office of the mine. 5

(5.) Such book shall, at all reasonable times, be open to the inspection of any Inspector under the principal Act, or workmen employed in the mine, or officer of the said society, who may take copies of or extracts from the reports recorded therein. 10

(6.) This section is in substitution of subsection forty-six of section thirty-three of the principal Act, which subsection is accordingly hereby repealed. 15

Contributions to Sick and Accident Fund.

3. The contribution payable to the Sick and Accident Fund by the owner of a coal-mine under section sixty-nine of the principal Act shall be calculated at the rate of one halfpenny per ton on all coal, except brown coal and lignite, sold during the preceding three months, and one farthing per ton on all brown coal and lignite sold during the same period. 20

New clauses.

Coal leases to be signed by Governor

4. Every lease granted under the principal Act shall be signed by the Governor for and on behalf of His Majesty the King; but no such lease shall be granted until the application therefor has been twice advertised at an interval of one week in some newspaper circulating in the district. 25

Hours of working underground.

5. No miner shall work longer in any day than eight hours underground in a mine; such eight hours shall commence from the time of entering such mine until such time as the miner leaves the mine: Provided that this section shall not affect any award already given under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900": Provided further that any such miner working beyond the said eight hours shall be entitled to be paid overtime. 30

Proviso.