

New Parliament.

Mr. Sheehan.

Dramatic Works Copyright.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Registration of Copyright in Dramatic Works. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend "The Fine Arts Copyright Act, 1877," and to make provision in respect of the registration of dramatic copyright: Preamble.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Dramatic Works Copyright Act, 1879." Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context— Interpretation.
10 "Dramatic work" means and includes every tragedy, comedy, play, opera, farce, or other scenic, musical, or dramatic entertainment.

"Proprietor" means and includes the author of any dramatic work and his assigns.

15 "Copyright" and "assigns" shall have the same meaning as that given by the Act of the Imperial Parliament of the fifth and sixth years of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, cap. 45, sec. 2.

No. 58—1.

Proprietor of dramatic work, entitled under 3 and 4 Wm. IV., cap. 15, and 5 and 6 Vict., cap. 45 Imperial Parliament, may register.

Mode of applying for registration.

Agent may be appointed.

Registrar to receive proof of proprietorship.

Copies of entries to be evidence.

Register, how rectified.

Penalty for fraud.

3. Any person entitled as proprietor under the provisions of 3 and 4 Will. IV., cap. 15, and 5 and 6 Vict., cap. 45, to the copyright in any dramatic work, may, subject to the provisions of such Acts, be registered as such proprietor by the Registrar of Copyrights at Wellington. 5

4. The application for registration shall be in the form in the First Schedule to this Act, shall be signed by the proprietor or his duly authorized agent appointed in writing, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the dramatic work, or such particulars as may be sufficient to identify it. 10

5. The proprietor may, by notice in writing, appoint some person resident in New Zealand to be his agent in the colony, with authority to issue licenses for the representation of such dramatic work, and to sue for and recover the penalties and damages provided by the hereinbefore mentioned Acts of the Imperial Parliament for unlicensed representation. 15

The appointment of an agent may from time to time be altered and revoked by notice in writing, addressed to the Registrar aforesaid, under the hand of the proprietor of the copyright aforesaid.

6. The Registrar aforesaid upon being furnished with reasonable evidence that the person applying to be registered is the proprietor of the copyright in the dramatic work, or of the appointment of such agent as aforesaid, shall enter in the register-book the name of the proprietor and such other particulars of the dramatic piece as may be sufficient to identify the same, and the name of the agent if one is appointed. 20 25

7. A copy of the entry in the register-book (signed and certified by the Registrar as a true copy) of the name of any person as proprietor or agent, shall be *prima facie* evidence that such person is such proprietor or agent, and that such agent is duly authorized to sue for penalties and damages under the said Imperial Acts for any unlicensed representation of the dramatic work, and that such agent is authorized to grant licenses to represent the dramatic work, and to prohibit the unlicensed representation thereof. 30

8. If the name of any person is, without sufficient cause, entered as the proprietor of the copyright in any dramatic work, or as his agent, in the register kept by the Registrar aforesaid, any person interested may apply to the Supreme Court on motion for an order that the register may be rectified, and the Court may either refuse or grant such application with or without costs. 35 40

9. If any person fraudulently procures, assists in fraudulently procuring, or is privy to the fraudulent procurement of any entry on the register of the name of any person as the proprietor of the copyright in any dramatic work, or as the agent of such proprietor, the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three years. 45

10. The fees in the Second Schedule to this Act shall be payable to the Registrar of Copyrights in respect of the matters and things therein mentioned. 50

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SCHEDULES.

Schedules.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

FORM OF REQUIRING ENTRY OF REGISTRATION.

I, A.B., the proprietor of the copyright of a dramatic work intituled _____, hereby require you to make entry in the Register-Book of the proprietorship of such copyright, according to the particulars undermentioned.

Title of Dramatic Work.	Name of Author and Description of Piece.	Name and Place of Abode of Proprietor of Copyright.	Name of Agent.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 18 _____
(Signed) _____

Signature of Proprietor or his Agent.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

SCHEDULE OF FEES.

	s.	d.
Form of application to register any dramatic work or works of the same proprietor	1	0
Every entry in register	0	6
Certificate of Registrar in any case	5	0
Every registration of proprietor or agent	2	6
Any search	5	0