

Mr. Reeves.

Mines Act 1877 Amendment.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title. Preamble. 1. Short Title. 2. Act incorporated with "Mines Act, 1877." 3. Holders of gold-mining claims entitled to protection under certain conditions. 4. At expiration of period of protection, work to be resumed. 5. Conditions under which further protection will be granted.</p>	<p>6. Protection for 18 consecutive months may, under certain circumstances, be granted. 7. Certificate of protection may be granted for three years if applicant proved to have spent £6,000 over and above profits. 8. Such certificate to date from application. 9. During such period working operations may be suspended. 10. Act not to affect validity of deeds of lease of land for gold-mining heretofore granted. Schedule.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Mines Act, 1877," in order to grant to Gold-mining Claims or Leases Right of Protection, with Suspension of Working Operations, under certain conditions. Title.

WHEREAS it has been proved by experience that it is at times needful to the welfare of the gold-mining industry to suspend work in gold-mining claims, and leases of land held for gold-mining purposes, for a period longer than that allowed by "The Mines Act, 1877," or by the conditions of the deeds of lease: 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 Mines Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1879," and this Act shall come into force on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty. Short Title.

2. This Act shall be read and construed as incorporated with and as part of "The Mines Act, 1877." Act incorporated with "Mines Act, 1877."

3. Holders of gold-mining claims, or of land in lease from the General Government for gold-mining purposes, shall be entitled to protection under the following circumstances and conditions:— Holders of gold-mining claims entitled to protection under certain conditions.

Any holder of a gold-mining claim or of land in lease for gold-
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mining purposes, who shall prove to the Minister administering the Mines to have spent not less than *one thousand five hundred* pounds cash by labour, or by labour and machinery, therewith connected, in prospecting and developing such property within the three years preceding the application for protection hereafter mentioned, or shall 5
 prove as aforesaid to have spent not less than *six hundred* pounds cash by labour or by labour and machinery in prospecting and developing such property without deriving any direct benefit from such claim or land within the twelve months preceding the application, shall be 10
 entitled to have such claim or lease registered for protection for twelve months, upon application to the Minister administering the Mines, supported by a detailed statement of the expenditure, and an affidavit, made before a Justice of the Peace, swearing such statement to be 15
 correct. Upon verification of the correctness of the application and of the documents thereto attached, the Minister administering the Mines shall, on prepayment by the applicant to the Colonial Treasury of the sum of five pounds, cause a certificate of protection for the 20
 twelve months to be issued in favour of the applicant, according to the form in the Schedule to this Act, and shall cause all such certificates of protection to be immediately published in two consecutive numbers of the *Government Gazette*, and in at least one newspaper published in the district, and an abstract of such certificates affixed in the office of the Warden of the gold field district where the property is situate.

At expiration of period of protection, work to be resumed.

4. At the expiration of the period of protection, work shall be resumed in the claim or leased land in accordance with the provisions of "The Mines Act, 1877," and with the conditions of the deed under which the land is held for gold-mining purposes. 25

Conditions under which further protection will be granted.

5. After a lapse of twelve months from the last day of the protection, any holder of a gold-mining claim or lease, who shall prove, in the form above provided, to the Minister administering the Mines to have spent a further sum of *five hundred* pounds cash within such twelve months in labour, or in labour and machinery, for prospecting and developing such claim or leasehold, without deriving any direct benefit from such claim or leasehold, shall be entitled to another grant of protection for twelve months, and so on every alternate twelve 30
 months, upon proof being adduced of *five hundred* pounds cash having been spent within the preceding twelve months in prospecting the claim or leasehold without deriving any direct benefit from the claim or leasehold. 35

Protection for 18 consecutive months may, under certain circumstances, be granted.

6. The Minister administering the Mines shall have the power of granting protection for eighteen consecutive months if, in his judgment, reasonable and sufficient grounds are shown in the application; and shall also have the power of granting six months' protection to any claim- or leaseholder, whether the amount specified has been spent in developing and prospecting it or not, provided sufficient reasons in its favour are adduced to his satisfaction. 40
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Certificate of protection may be granted for three years if applicant proved to have spent £6,000 over and above profits.

7. Any holder of a gold-mining claim or gold-mining lease who shall prove to the Minister administering the Mines in the manner above described to have spent the sum of *six thousand* pounds cash over and above all profits derived from such claim or leasehold, shall be entitled to a certificate of protection for three years, and for every certificate of protection the sum of five pounds shall be prepaid into the Colonial Treasury, the Government undertaking to pay the cost of publishing the certificates in the *Government Gazette*. 50

Such certificate to date from application.

8. The protection shall date from the day of application. 55

During such period working operations may be suspended.

9. The certificate of protection shall entitle the holder of the gold-mining claim or lease to suspend all working operations during the period of protection, notwithstanding all conditions or provisions to the contrary imposed by "The Mines Act, 1877," or by deeds of lease. 60

10. This Act shall in no way affect the validity of the deeds of lease of land for gold-mining granted up to the time of coming into operation of this Act, nor shall affect any of the conditions or clauses thereto attached, but simply establish a right to obtain protection
 5 under certain circumstances and conditions; and all deeds of lease of land for gold-mining shall hereafter be made subject to the provisions of this Act.

Act not to affect validity of deeds of lease of land for gold-mining heretofore granted.

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND.—DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

In accordance with clause of "The Mines Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1879," this Certificate of Protection for from to is granted in favour of the

Minister administering the Mines.