

*This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.*

*House of Representatives,  
27th July, 1900.*

*Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.*

**PUBLIC CONTRACTS.**

**ANALYSIS.**

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. "Public contract" defined.</p> <p>3. Usual length of working-day and rates of wages implied in public contracts. Proviso.</p>	<p>4. Working-day not to exceed eight hours.</p> <p>5. Act deemed incorporated in public contracts.</p> <p>6. No contracting-out.</p> <p>7. Penalties.</p>
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**A BILL INTITULED**

AN ACT to provide for Fair Wages and Working-hours on Public Contracts. Title.

BE IT 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 Public Contracts Act, 1900." Short Title.
- 2. In this Act the expression "public contract" means every contract exceeding the value of twenty pounds hereafter entered into pursuant to public tender by or on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in New Zealand, any Education Board, Harbour Board, or any local authority, as contractee, with any person, firm, or company, as contractor, for the construction, extension, or repair of any public or other work, or the supply or performance of any service, involving the employment of skilled or unskilled manual labour. "Public contract" defined.
- 3. In the employment of every description of skilled or unskilled manual labour for the purposes of any public contract, the contractor shall at all times be deemed to have agreed with his workers to observe such length for the working-day, and to pay such rates of wages or other remuneration for working-days and for overtime respectively, as are generally considered in the locality to be usual and fair for the description of labour to which they relate, such length being at no time greater nor such rates lower than those fixed for the same description of labour by or under any award or order of the Court of Arbitration existing at the time the contract was entered into, whether the contractor was or was not a party thereto or bound thereby. Usual length of working-day and rates of wages implied in public contracts.

Proviso.

Provided that nothing in this section or elsewhere in this Act contained shall limit or affect the rights of the worker under any agreement with the contractor for the observance of a shorter length or the payment of a higher rate than those referred to in this section.

Working-day not to exceed eight hours.

4. In every public contract the maximum length of the working-day to be observed in the case of each description of skilled or unskilled manual labour employed by the contractor in carrying out the contract shall not exceed eight hours exclusive of overtime. 5

Act deemed incorporated in public contracts.  
No contracting-out.

5. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be incorporated in every public contract. 10

6. It shall not be competent to any worker to contract himself out of the benefit of this Act.

Penalties.

7. If the contractor commits any breach of the provisions of this Act, then, in addition to any other penalty or liability he may thereby incur under the contract or this Act, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *ten* pounds for each offence. 15

All penalties incurred under this Act shall be recoverable in a summary way under the provisions of "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1882." 20