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Hon. Sir J. Vogel.

POSTAL NOTES.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT relating to Post Office Postal Notes.

Title.

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

5 **1.** The Short Title of this Act is “The Post Office (Postal Notes) Act, 1885.” Short Title.

It shall be deemed to be incorporated with “The Post Office Act, 1881” (herein referred to as “the principal Act”), and shall also be

10 mentioned in the said principal Act.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

“Post Office regulations” means regulations from time to time made in pursuance of the Post Office Acts.

“Prescribed” means prescribed by the Post Office regulations for the time being in force.

15 **3.** Subject to the Post Office regulations as defined by this Act, the Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Governor in Council, may, for the purpose of the transmission of small sums through the Post Office, authorize his officers or any of them to issue,
20 in addition to the money orders already authorized by law, postal notes in the form set forth in the Schedule to this Act; and such orders shall be paid in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed by the said regulations, and shall be deemed to be money orders within the meaning of the said regulations, and shall, like
25 other money orders, be exempt from stamp duty.

Power to issue postal notes for transmission of small sums within the colony.

Power to issue postal notes for transmission of small sums abroad.

4. The Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Governor in Council, may from time to time make arrangements with the constituted authorities in England, or in any of Her Majesty's colonies or possessions, or in any foreign country, for the reciprocal payment of postal notes by means of the Post Office, and for the accounting and transmission of moneys connected therewith. 5

All such arrangements and regulations shall be binding and conclusive upon the persons in favour of whom such postal notes are issued, and on all persons interested through or claiming under them, and upon all holders of postal notes, and shall have the same force and effect in all respects as if contained in this Act. 10

Conditions attaching to issue of postal notes.

5. The issue of postal notes shall be subject to the following conditions, that is to say :—

(1.) No postal note shall be issued for any amount exceeding twenty shillings: 15

(2.) There shall be paid in respect of every postal note issued such poundage, varying with the amount of the note, as the Governor in Council may fix from time to time :

(3.) Any such note shall not be issued until the amount of the note and the poundage have been paid to the officer issuing the same : 20

(4.) After the expiration of four months from the last day of the month in which any such postal note is issued by the Post Office, the note shall be payable only on payment in the prescribed manner of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage, with the addition (if more than four months have elapsed since the said expiration) of the amount of the original poundage for every further period of four months which has so elapsed, and for every portion of any such period of four months over and above every complete period : 25 30

(5.) No interest shall be payable in respect of a postal note issued under this Act.

Application of Post Office Acts, and laying of regulations before Parliament.

6. Subject to any Post Office regulations, the Post Office Acts shall apply to postal notes issued under this Act. All Post Office regulations in relation to postal notes issued under this Act shall be published in the *Gazette*, and shall be laid before both Houses of the General Assembly within fourteen days after they are made if the General Assembly be then in session, and if not, within fourteen days after the commencement of the then next session thereof. 35 40

Protection of postal officers in respect of delay or non-payment of notes.

7. No action, claim, or demand against the Postmaster-General or any officer of the Post Office shall arise by reason of any default, delay, omission, or loss in consequence of payment of the amount of any postal note being refused or delayed, or on account of any accidental neglect, omission, or mistake, or of any other cause whatsoever. 45

After any postal note has been once paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the Postmaster-General will not be liable for any further claim.

Forgery of crossing of postal note.

8. Any person who, with intent to defraud, obliterates, adds to, or alters any such lines or words on a postal note issued under this Act as would, in the case of a cheque, be a crossing of that cheque, or knowingly offers, utters, or disposes of any postal note with such 50

fraudulent obliteration, addition, or alteration, shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to the like punishment as if such postal note were a cheque: Provided always that any banker or corporation, or company acting as bankers, in the colony, who, in collecting in such capacity for any principal, shall have received payment or been allowed by the Postmaster-General in account, in respect of any postal note issued under this Act, or of any document purporting to be such a postal note, shall not incur liability to any one except such principal by reason of having received such payment or allowance, or having held or presented such note or document for payment. But this section shall not relieve any principal for whom such postal note or document shall have been so held or presented of any liability in respect of his possession of the same or of the proceeds thereof.

9. (1.) The enactments providing for the punishment of offences relating to stamp duties shall apply in like manner as if the poundage under this Act were a stamp duty. Fraud and forgery

(2.) Section fifty-three of "The Post Office Act, 1881" (which relates to dies and paper, and to plates and instruments, and to the punishing of fraud), shall apply as if herein re-enacted, with the substitution of poundage under this Act for the duties therein mentioned, and of postal notes under this Act for the paper or other material or substance therein mentioned.

(3.) Every post officer who re-issues a postal note previously paid shall be deemed to have issued the note with a fraudulent intent within the meaning of section sixty-one of "The Post Office Act, 1881," and shall be punished accordingly.

(4.) A postal note under this Act shall be deemed to be an order for the payment of money and a valuable security within the meaning of the Post Office Acts and of "The Forgery Act, 1867," and of "The Larceny Act, 1867," and of any other law relating to forgery or stealing which is for the time being in force in the colony.

Schedule.

SCHEDULE.
FORM OF NOTE.

POSTAL NOTE for * [Five Shillings].

(Name of Issuing Office.)
[Number of Note.]

Postal Order
[One Penny].

Inland
Revenue
Stamp.

To the Postmaster in charge of the money-order office at † Pay to † at any time within four months from the last day of the month of issue the sum of * [five shillings] on account of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

Issuing Office
Stamp,
with date.

Postmaster.

* Alter according to amount.

† The person to whom this postal note is issued may, before parting with it, fill in the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid, and may fill in the name of the money-order office at which the amount is to be paid.

The person so named must sign the receipt at the foot hereof, and must also fill in the name of the money-order office, if that has not been already done.

1. If this note be crossed " and Co.," payment will only be made through a banker; and if the name of a banker is added, payment will only be made through that banker.
2. After this note has once been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the Postmaster-General will not be liable for any further claim.
3. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if this note is cut, defaced, or mutilated, payment may be refused.
4. The regulations under which this note is issued allow the Postmaster to refuse or delay the payment of this note; but he must at once report his reasons for so doing to the Postmaster-General.
5. After the expiration of four months from the last day of the month of issue this postal note will be payable only on payment of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage, with the addition (if more than four months have elapsed since the said expiration) of the amount of the original poundage for every further period of four months which has so elapsed, and for every portion of any such period of four months over and above every complete period.

Paying Office
Stamp,
with date,
cancelling
this Note.

Received the above-named sum.

Signature.