

Hon. Mr. Ward.

POST OFFICE ACTS AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	5. Compensation for damage to contents of registered letter.
1. Short Title.	6. Notices of sailing of ship may be given by ship's or master's agent.
2. Definition.	7. Declaration by masters of vessels on arrival.
3. Newspapers containing indecent matter may be destroyed.	8. Governor in Council may prescribe form of postal notes.
4. Power to issue post-cards and letter-cards for transmission by post either within or beyond the colony.	9. Limitation of currency of £1 and £5 postal notes.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the further Amendment of the Post Office Acts. 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 Acts Amendment Act, 1893." It shall be deemed to be incorporated with "The Post Office Act, 1881" (herein referred to as "the principal Act"), and to be included within "the Post Office Acts" defined in section two of the principal Act. Short Title.

10 2. In the definition of the word "letter," in section two of the principal Act, there shall be inserted the word "letter-cards" after the word "post-cards." Definition.

15 3. The words following shall be added to section nine of the principal Act, and shall be deemed to have been especially enacted therein, that is to say,— Newspapers containing indecent matter may be destroyed.

For the detaining, opening, refusing to deliver, and destroying any newspaper or other publication containing any matter or advertisement of an indecent, or covertly indecent, or immoral or obscene nature, or which the Postmaster-General, or any member of the Executive Council for the time being acting for him, shall be satisfied is intended to have an indecent, immoral, purient, or obscene effect, whose decision shall be final.

20 4. Sections twelve and thirteen of the principal Act are hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:— Power to issue post-cards and letter-cards for transmission by post either within or beyond the colony.

25 (1.) The Postmaster-General may, subject to regulations, furnish and issue post-cards and letter-cards to the public, for transmission by post between places either within or beyond New Zealand.

Such cards, respectively, shall have a stamp of the postage-rate impressed or engraved upon them, and be manufactured of paper of such quality, form, and size as the Postmaster-General shall deem best adapted for general use.

(2.) The postage-rate for the said cards, respectively, when transmitted to places within the colony, shall be such amount as may be fixed from time to time by the Governor in Council; and, with respect to the said cards respectively which may be transmitted to places beyond the colony, 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 transmission of post-cards and letter-cards by means of the Post Office, subject to the payment of such rate of postage in respect of the same as may be mutually arranged in each case, but subject in all other respects to the provisions of the principal Act in relation to post-cards sent by post within the colony.

(3.) Letter-cards shall, for the purpose of the Post Office Acts, be deemed to be post-cards.

(4.) Section two of "The Post Office Act, 1889," is hereby repealed.

Compensation for damage to contents of registered letter.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in section eighteen of the principal Act, the Postmaster-General may pay out of the postal revenue any sum not exceeding two pounds, as compensation for the loss of any registered letter, or for damage done to the contents thereof, on production of evidence which will satisfy him of such loss or damage.

Notices of sailing of ship may be given by ship's or master's agent.

6. Any notice of the intended departure of a vessel, required to be given by sections thirty-five or thirty-seven of the principal Act by the master of the vessel, may be given by the agent of such vessel, or other person acting as agent for the master thereof.

Declaration by masters of vessels on arrival.

7. Section forty-one of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

The master of any vessel arriving at any port in the colony at which there is any post office shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, subscribe a declaration in the presence of and attested by a witness in the form or to the effect following, that is to say:—

"I, A.B., master of the [*State the name of the vessel*], arrived from [*State the place*], do solemnly declare that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, delivered to C.D., the person duly authorised to receive delivery thereof, every mail-bag and letter that was on board the said vessel, except such letters as are not required by law to be sent by post:"

and shall deliver such declaration to the person duly authorised to receive the mail-bags for the Postmaster or post officer at such port, or the town or place adjacent thereto, who on receipt of the said declaration shall grant a certificate under his hand of the making

thereof; and, until such certificate is produced to the Collector or other proper officer of Customs at such port, he shall not permit such vessel to report. And any master failing or refusing to make such declaration, or making a false declaration, shall be liable to a 5 penalty not exceeding *one hundred* pounds.

8. "The Post Office (Postal Notes) Act, 1885," is hereby amended as follows:—

Governor in Council may prescribe form of postal notes.

10 (1.) In section three thereof, the words "in the form set forth in the Schedule to this Act" shall be repealed, and the words "in such form as the Governor by Order in Council may from time to time prescribe" shall be substituted in lieu thereof.

(2.) The Schedule to that Act is hereby repealed.

15 9. Section three of "The Post Office Acts Amendment Act, 1891," is hereby amended by the insertion in the second paragraph of the said section, after the words "The currency of all postal notes," of the words "other than one-pound notes and five-pound notes."

Limitation of currency of £1 and £5 postal notes.