

Hon. Sir J. G. Ward.

POST OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Post Office Act, 1900."

Title.

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

1. (1.) The Short Title of this Act is "The Post Office Act Amendment Act, 1906"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Post Office Act, 1900" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act").

Short Title.

(2.) This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seven.

2. (1.) The interest payable to depositors in the Post-Office Savings-Bank shall be at a rate per annum to be from time to time determined by the Colonial Treasurer, not exceeding in the case of each depositor—

Rate of Interest on Savings-Bank deposits.

(a.) On so much of his deposit as does not exceed three hundred pounds, a rate of five per centum; and

(b.) On so much thereof as exceeds three hundred pounds and does not exceed six hundred pounds, a rate of four per centum:

Provided that in the case of savings-banks under "The Savings Bank Act, 1858," and of legally constituted friendly, charitable, or provident societies, and such other non-mercantile societies as the Governor from time to time by Order in Council prescribes, the aforesaid limit of six hundred pounds shall not apply.

(2.) Except in the case of the aforesaid savings-banks and societies, no interest shall be allowed to any depositor on more than six hundred pounds.

(3.) This section is in substitution for section seventy-six of the principal Act, which section is hereby accordingly repealed.

Repeal.

Post Office Account.

3. (1.) Moneys received for transmission by money-order, postal note, or British postal order, or for deposit in the Post-Office Savings-Bank, together with all moneys received under or by virtue of the principal Act in respect of any rates, duties, or fines, or on any other account whatsoever, shall (unless otherwise directed by the Governor in Council in relation to fines imposed upon Post officers or Telegraph officers for breaches of regulations) be kept at the bank at which the Public Account is for the time being kept, in a separate account called the "Post Office Account." 5

(2.) Such account shall be operated on only by cheque signed by the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department, or, in his absence, by some other officer duly authorised by the Postmaster-General, and countersigned by the Audit Office. 10

(3.) All such moneys other than fines imposed upon Post officers or Telegraph officers as aforesaid, deposits in the Post-Office Savings-Bank, the interest on those deposits, and the principal moneys received in respect of money-orders, postal notes, or British postal orders, and all moneys collected on behalf of other Government Departments, or in trust for other States, companies, or persons, shall form part of the postal revenue. 15 20

(4.) The Postmaster-General shall, at the end of each month, or oftener if required to do so by the Colonial Treasurer, pay over to the Consolidated Fund all sums received during such month as postal or other revenue.

(5.) It shall, notwithstanding, be lawful for any Postmaster, when so directed by the Postmaster-General or by any regulations in that behalf, to pay, out of any balances in his hands, any money-order, postal note, British postal order, or withdrawal from the Post-Office Savings-Bank which he may be so directed to pay, duly accounting for the same to the Postmaster-General. 25 30

(6.) It shall be lawful for any Postmaster to pay, out of any balances in his hands, any claims upon the Government which he may be directed by the Postmaster-General to pay :

Provided that the total amount of such payments by Postmasters shall not at any time exceed the balance of moneys in the hands of the Postmaster-General imprested to him for the purpose of making such payments, together with the amount of postal or other revenue in the Post Office Account. Such postal or other revenue shall not be held in any way to include the Post-Office Savings-Bank deposits. 35 40

(7.) At the end of each calendar year the Postmaster-General shall prepare an account showing the total profit accrued on the Post Office Account during each year after deducting all working expenses, including rent and cost of new buildings and sites, and shall, on or before the end of the then financial year, pay over the balance, after making full provision for all liabilities to depositors or otherwise thereon, to the Consolidated Fund. 45

Repeals.

(8.) Section one hundred and fifteen of the principal Act, section seventy-four of "The Public Revenues Act, 1891," and section ten of "The Public Revenues Acts Amendment Act, 1900," are hereby 50 repealed.

4. The regulations made under the principal Act may provide—

Additional regulations as to Savings-Bank.

(a.) For the nomination by a Savings-Bank depositor, not being under twenty-one years of age, of any person or persons to whom any sum or sums payable to such depositor at his decease (including any accrued interest payable to the representatives of such depositor) is or are to be paid at such decease;

(b.) For the revocation of such nomination, and for the payment of the specified amount to any nominee so nominated;

(c.) For the payment or transfer of sums in the Post-Office Savings-Bank which belong to persons appearing to be minors or of unsound mind, or form part of the estate of any person appearing to be deceased; and

(d.) For evidence being given relative to the amounts deposited or withdrawn by persons to whom pensions have been granted under "The Old-age Pensions Act, 1898," or by claimants for pensions under that Act.

5. The Postmaster-General may enter into a reciprocal arrangement with any Government Savings-bank authority either in Great Britain or in any British possession or foreign country for the transfer of sums standing to the credit of depositors in such Government Savings-bank to the Post-Office Savings-Bank in New Zealand, or from the Post-Office Savings-Bank in New Zealand to such Government Savings-bank, and may make regulations under the authority of this Act to give effect to transfers authorised in pursuance of this section.

Reciprocal arrangements with foreign savings-banks.

6. The entry in a depositor's book under section sixty-nine of the principal Act of a deposit of less than one pound shall be conclusive evidence of title in the same manner as an acknowledgment by the Postmaster-General of a deposit is evidence of title under that section, and it shall not be necessary to transmit any such acknowledgment in the case of such a deposit.

Entry in depositor's book of sum under £1.

7. Postal packets addressed to or sent by institutes for the blind or public libraries containing matter prepared in raised characters for the use of the blind shall not be subject to postage.

Postal packets for the blind.

8. The Postmaster-General may from time to time cause post-office pillar boxes to be erected and maintained in any road or street, reserve or public place, under the jurisdiction of any local authority.

Pillar boxes.

9. (1.) If the Postmaster-General has at any time reasonable ground to suppose any person in New Zealand or elsewhere to be engaged—

Postal packets and money-orders for certain persons need not be registered, delivered, or paid.

(a.) In receiving any money or valuable thing as the consideration for any assurance or agreement, expressed or implied, to pay or give any money or valuable thing on any event or contingency relating to any horse-race or other race, fight, game, sport, or exercise, or as the consideration for securing the paying or giving by some other person of any money or valuable thing on any such event or contingency as aforesaid; or

(b.) In promoting or carrying out any scheme connected with any such assurance or agreement, or any lottery, scheme of chance, or unlawful game; or

- (c.) In receiving money under pretence of foretelling future events ; or
 (d.) In any fraudulent, obscene, immoral, or unlawful business or undertaking ;
 (e.) In advertising in direct or indirect terms the treatment of diseases of the sexual organs,—

then the Postmaster-General may, by notification under his hand in the *Gazette*, order that no postal packet addressed to any such person (either by his own or any fictitious or assumed name), or to any address without a name, shall be either registered, forwarded, or delivered by the Post Office.

(2.) Such notification shall specify every such name, whether real, fictitious, or assumed, and every such address in respect of which such order is made.

(3.) Until such order is in like manner revoked no such postal packet shall be registered, forwarded, or delivered, nor shall any money-order be issued in such person's favour, or be paid to him.

Repeal.

(4.) This section is in substitution for section twenty-seven of the principal Act, which section is hereby accordingly repealed.

Certain postal packets may be destroyed.

10. (1.) Where the Postmaster-General or any Postmaster has reason to suspect that any postal packet (other than a letter) addressed to any person (either by his own or any fictitious name or assumed name), or to any address without a name, posted in New Zealand or elsewhere, contains or is supposed to contain any printed or written matter of any kind, or any enclosure of any kind—

(a.) Which is of a libellous, blasphemous, indecent, or immoral nature, or likely to have an indecent or immoral effect ; or

(b.) In advertisement of any lottery or scheme of chance, he may cause such postal packet to be detained and opened, and if it is found to contain any such matter or enclosure he shall cause the postal packet and the contents thereof to be destroyed.

(2.) If any Postmaster has any doubt as to whether the provisions of this section should be enforced in any particular case, he shall refer the matter to the Postmaster-General, whose decision shall be final.

Repeal.

(3.) This section is in substitution for section twenty-nine of the principal Act, which section is hereby accordingly repealed.

Classification.

11. (1.) "The Post and Telegraph Department Act, 1894," is hereby amended as follows :—

(a.) By repealing so much of the First Schedule as relates to the Sixth Class, Clerical Division, and substituting in lieu thereof the following :—

Sixth Class	...	110	200	Two annual increments of £10 each, then two of £15 each, then three of £10 each, then two of £5 each. Officers in this class who have served more than seventeen years to have two additional annual increments of £10 each without being transferred from the class ; but salary in next class to start at same rate as that received in this class at time of transfer.
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Amendments in classification of Department.

(b.) By adding to the Second Schedule the following :—

Post-office sorters...	90	170	Six annual increments of £10 each, then four of £5 each.
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(c.) By repealing so much of the Second Schedule as relates to cadettes (telephone exchange), linemen, letter-carriers, and P.O. messengers, and substituting in lieu thereof the following :—

Cadettes (Telephone Exchange)	40	80	Four annual increments of £10 each ; with lodging-allowance of £20 for the first year, £10 for the second year, and £5 the third year when cadette stationed from home. Officers who have served more than ten years to have four additional annual increments of £5 each.
Linemen—			
1st Grade ...	135	160	Five annual increments of £5 each. Where quarters are provided for any officer in this grade, a rental of £10 a year to be paid.
2nd Grade ...	110	125	Three annual increments of £5 each.
Letter-carriers—			
1st Grade ...	135	160	Five annual increments of £5 each.
2nd Grade ...	105	125	One annual increment of £10, then two of £5 each.
3rd Grade (country offices)	60	100	Three annual increments of £10 each, then two of £5 each.
P.O. Messengers—			
1st Grade ...	105	160	Two annual increments of £10 each, then seven of £5 each. Where quarters are provided for any officer in this grade, a rental of £10 a year to be paid.
2nd Grade ...	60	95	Three annual increments of £10 each, then one of £5.

(d.) By repealing so much of the Third Schedule as relates to counter-clerks (Telegraph), assistant counter-clerks (Telegraph), assistant exchange clerks, junior exchange clerks, assistant despatch-clerks, and distributors, and substituting in lieu thereof the following :—

Counter-clerks (Telegraph)	50	150	By annual increments of £10 each.
Assistant counter-clerks (Telegraph)			
Assistant Exchange clerks			
Junior Exchange clerks			
Assistant despatch-clerks			
Distributors ...			

(2.) "The Post and Telegraph Department Act, 1902," is hereby amended by repealing paragraphs (2) and (3) of section two. Repeal.

(3.) This section shall have effect from the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and seven. Commencement.

Regulations.

12. In addition to the matters concerning which the Governor may, under "The Post and Telegraph Classification and Regulation Act, 1896," make regulations, he may also make regulations—

- (a.) Prescribing a test of efficiency for officers in the Sixth Class before such officers may receive increments beyond
(a) one hundred and *fifty* pounds, and (b) one hundred and *eighty* pounds. 5
- (b.) Prescribing that no male officer twenty-two years of age on the first day of April in any one year shall draw a salary of less than *one* hundred pounds per annum. 10
- (c.) Prescribing a greater minimum and a lesser maximum salary for any section of the officers described in paragraph (d) of section *eleven* hereof.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1906.