I certify that this PUBLIC BILL, which originated in the LEGIS-LATIVE ASSEMBLY, has finally passed the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL and the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of NEW SOUTH WALES.

> W. S. MOWLE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly Chamber, Sydney, 3 March, 1926.

New South Wales.



GEORGH V REGIS.

Act No. 5, 1926.

* * * * * * * * * * *

An Act to authorise the revision of the standard of heating power of gas to be supplied by certain gas companies; to enable certain gas companies to extend the area of their operations; to provide for the constitution of boards of inquiry; to amend the Gas Act, 1912, and certain other Acts; and for purposes connected therewith. [Assented to, 17th March, 1926.]

B^E it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the "Gas (Amend- short title, ment) Act, 1926."

(2) The Gas Act, 1912, as amended by subsequent Acts is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act.

I have examined this Bill, and find it to correspond in all respects with the Bill as finally passed by both Houses.

R. GREIG,

2.

Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly

Amendment of Act No. 71, 1912, s. 23.

Examination and audit of accounts.

New sections 34, 35, 36, 37.

Appointment of board to hold inquiry. 2. The Principal Act is amended—
(a) by omitting subsection one of section twentythree and by inserting in lieu thereof the following new subsection :—

> (1) The Auditor-General shall at the request of the Minister, either personally or by an officer appointed by him, examine and report to the Minister upon the accounts of any gas company; or

> The Minister may appoint any officer of the Public Service to examine or audit the accounts of any gas company, and report to him upon the result of such examination and audit.

> For the purposes of any such examination, audit, or report, the Auditor-General or the officer appointed by him, or by the Minister, shall be given access and opportunity to examine all books and documents in the control of the company which relate to the accounts of the company.

(b) by inserting in subsection two of section twenty-three after the words "by him" the words "or by the Minister";

(c) by inserting the following new sections next after section thirty-three:—

34. (1) The Governor may appoint a board for the purposes of sections thirty-five, thirtysix, or thirty-seven of this Act.

(2) A board shall consist of three members, one to be nominated by the Minister, one to be nominated by the gas company concerned in the subject matter of the inquiry to be held, and a third member who shall be chairman, and shall be a person agreed upon between the Minister and such gas company.

(3) For the purposes of any inquiry under sections thirty-five or thirty-six the chairman of a board shall have the powers, rights, and privileges of a chairman of a Royal Commission within the meaning of Division 1 of Part II of the Royal Commissions Act, 1923, and

and a member of a board shall have the powers, rights, and privileges of a commissioner within the meaning of that Division.

(4) The provisions of the Royal Commissions Act, 1923, with the exception of Division 2 of Part II shall apply to and with respect to the inquiry.

(5) Regulations may provide for the procedure at the inquiries of a board, for the conduct and payment of the expenses of such inquiries, and for all matters necessary or desirable relating to a board or to such inquiries.

35 (1) If the Minister is satisfied after an Standards inquiry held by a board, at the expense of the of heating company, that it would be to the advantage of the consumers of gas of any company included in Schedule One, or in any addition thereto, he may by proclamation published in the Gazette—

- (a) exempt such company from the obligations and penalties prescribed by this or any other Act in respect of the illuminating power of the gas supplied by it;
- (b) prescribe, in respect of the gas to be supplied by any such company, such reduced standard of heating power, not being less than four hundred and fifty British thermal units gross heating value, as shall be recommended by the board in lieu of the standard prescribed in section four.

(2) If on any day the gas supplied by any such gas company at any testing place, when tested in manner prescribed in the regulations, is of less heating power than that prescribed in the proclamation, the company shall be liable to penalties as follows :—

(a) For the first five per centum of deficiency not exceeding forty shillings;

(b)

(b) for any deficiency in excess of five per centum, not less than twenty-five pounds and not exceeding one hundred pounds.

36. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any Act, deed of settlement, or memorandum or articles of association, any gas company included in Schedule One or in any addition thereto may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by regulation, after an inquiry held by a board at the expense of the company, carry on operations and supply gas within such further area as is prescribed by the Governor by proclamation in the Gazette.

(2) Any such company may be authorised by the proclamation to charge for gas sold within any area prescribed in the proclamation such an additional rate as the board shall determine to be necessary to recoup the company for the additional cost of the supply or distribution of gas within such area.

37. The Governor may after inquiry by a board and report that such would be in the interest of the public by proclamation published in the Gazette—

- (a) authorise arrangements for the purchase by agreement, joint working, or amalgamation of any gas companies upon such conditions as the board may recommend, including necessary provisions with regard to the capital of the combined company, the vesting of the property and rights of the purchased or amalgamated companies, and other necessary incidents and consequences of purchase, amalgamation, or joint working;
- (b) modify or amend the powers of any special Act or other provision relating to any gas company affected by any proclamation under this Act as the board may recommend and as may be necessary to provide for the proper and efficient conduct of the company'sbusiness.

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty I assent: to this Act.

Government House, Sydney, 17th March, 1926.

D. R. S. DE CHAIR,

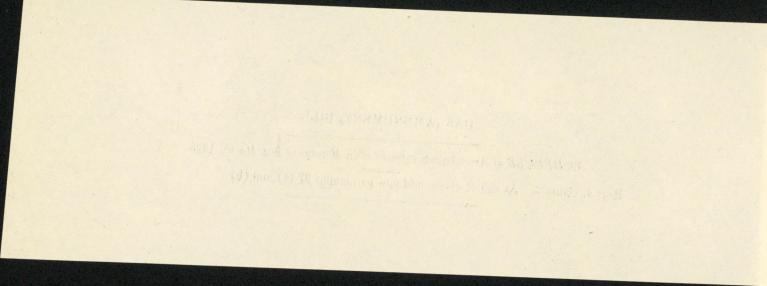
Governor.

Extension of areas of operation of companies.

Proclamation after inquiry.

GAS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

SCHEDULE of Amendments referred to in Message of 3rd March, 1926. Page 4, clause 2. At end of clause add new paragraphs 37 (a) and (b)



This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

W. S. MOWLE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Legislative Assembly Chamber. Sydney, 24 February, 1926.

The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL has this day agreed to this Bill with an Amendment.

> W. L. S. COOPER, Clerk of the Parliaments.

> > 111

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 3rd March, 1926.

New South Wales.



ANNO SEXTO DECIMO

GEORGII V REGIS.

Act No. , 1926.

An Act to authorise the revision of the standard of heating power of gas to be supplied by certain gas companies; to enable certain gas companies to extend the area of their operations; to provide for the constitution of boards of inquiry; to amend the Gas Act, 1912, and certain other Acts; and for purposes connected therewith

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of 5 the same, as follows :--

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the "Gas (Amend-short title. ment) Act, 1926."

(2) The Gas Act, 1912, as amended by subsequent Acts is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act. 200-

2.

NOTE.-The words to be inserted are printed in black letter.

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2. The Principal Act is amended—

Amendment

(a) by omitting subsection one of section twenty- of Act No. 71, 1912, three and by inserting in lieu thereof the s. 23. following new subsection :—

(1) The Auditor-General shall at the request Examination of the Minister, either personally or by an and audit of accounts. officer appointed by him, examine and report to the Minister upon the accounts of any gas company; or

The Minister may appoint any officer of the Public Service to examine or audit the accounts of any gas company, and report to him upon the result of such examination and audit.

For the purposes of any such examination, audit, or report, the Auditor-General or the officer appointed by him, or by the Minister, shall be given access and opportunity to examine all books and documents in the control of the company which relate to the accounts of the company.

- (b) by inserting in subsection two of section twenty-three after the words "by him" the words "or by the Minister";

34. (1) The Governor may appoint a board Appointment of board to for the purposes of sections thirty-five or thirty-hold inquiry. six of this Act.

(2) A board shall consist of three members, one to be nominated by the Minister, one to be nominated by the gas company concerned in the subject matter of the inquiry to be held, and a third member who shall be chairman, and shall be a person agreed upon between the Minister and such gas company.

(3) For the purposes of any inquiry under sections thirty-five or thirty-six the chairman of a board shall have the powers, rights, and privileges of a chairman of a Royal Commission within the meaning of Division 1 of Part II of the Royal Commissions Act, 1923, and

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and a member of a board shall have the powers, rights, and privileges of a commissioner within the meaning of that Division.

(4) The provisions of the Royal Commissions Act, 1923, with the exception of Division 2 of Part II shall apply to and with respect to the inquiry.

(5) Regulations may provide for the procedure at the inquiries of a board, for the conduct and payment of the expenses of such inquiries, and for all matters necessary or desirable relating to a board or to such inquiries.

35 (1) If the Minister is satisfied after an Standards inquiry held by a board, at the expense of the ^{of heating} company, that it would be to the advantage of the consumers of gas of any company included in Schedule One, or in any addition thereto, he may by proclamation published in the Gazette—

- (a) exempt such company from the obligations and penalties prescribed by this or any other Act in respect of the illuminating power of the gas supplied by it;
- (b) prescribe, in respect of the gas to be supplied by any such company, such reduced standard of heating power, not being less than four hundred and fifty British thermal units gross heating value, as shall be recommended by the board in lieu of the standard prescribed in section four.

(2) If on any day the gas supplied by any such gas company at any testing place, when tested in manner prescribed in the regulations, is of less heating power than that prescribed in the proclamation, the company shall be liable to penalties as follows :—

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(b)

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(b) for any deficiency in excess of five per centum, not less than twenty-five pounds and not exceeding one hundred pounds. 4

36. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Extension of any Act, deed of settlement, or memorandum areas of operation of companies. included in Schedule One or in any addition thereto may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by regulation, after an inquiry held by a board at the expense of the company, carry on operations and supply gas within such further area as is prescribed by the Governor by proclamation in the Gazette.

(2) Any such company may be authorised by the proclamation to charge for gas sold within any area prescribed in the proclamation such an additional rate as the board shall determine to be necessary to recoup the company for the additional cost of the supply or distribution of gas within such area.

37. The Governor may after inquiry by a board and report that such would be in the interest of the public by proclamation published in the Gazette—

 (a) authorise arrangements for the purchase by agreement, joint working, or amalgamation of any gas companies upon such conditions as the board may recommend, including necessary provisions with regard to the capital of the combined company, the vesting of the property and rights of the purchased or amalgamated companies, and other necessary incidents and consequences of purchase, amalgamation, or joint working;

(b) modify or amend the powers of any special Act or other provision relating to any gas company affected by any proclamation under this Act as the board may recommend and as may be necessary to provide for the proper and efficient conduct of the company's business.

Sydney: Alfred James Kent, Government Printer-1926.

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1926.

Legislative Council.

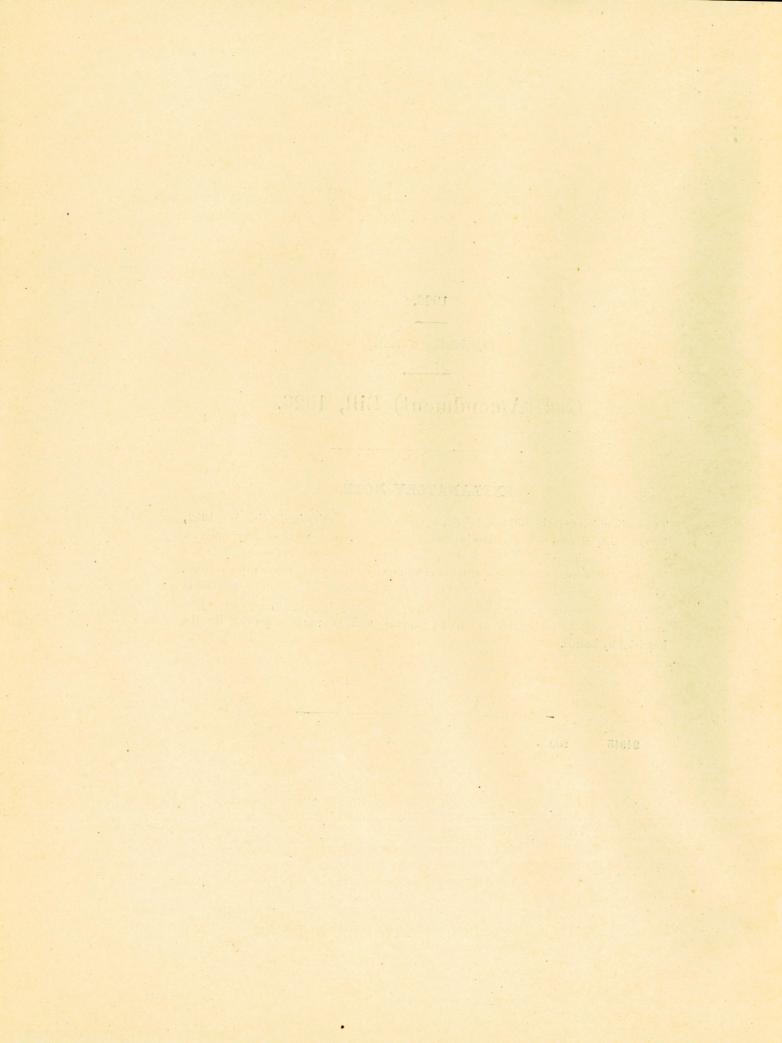
Gas (Amendment) Bill, 1926.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

THE main objects of the Bill are, briefly, to remove an ambiguity in the Gas Act, 1912, by providing clearly that the Minister as well as the Auditor-General may cause an audit and examination of the books of any gas company; to enable gas companies, after inquiry by a board, to supply gas of a less calorific value than that at present prescribed, where such less calorific value is proved to be to the advantage of consumers of gas; and to enable gas companies otherwise restricted, after inquiry by a board, to extend their areas of supply to places not at present supplied with gas; and to provide for the inquiries by boards.

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This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

> W. S. MOWLE, Clerk of the Legislatire Assembly.

Legislative Assembly Chamber, Sydney, 24 February, 1926.

New South Wales.



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(2) The Gas Act, 1912, as amended by subsequent Acts is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act. 94945 200- 2.

2. The Principal Act is amended—

(a) by omitting subsection one of section twenty- ^{of Act}_{No. 71, 1912}, three and by inserting in lieu thereof the s. 23. following new subsection :—

(1) The Auditor-General shall at the request Examination of the Minister, either personally or by an and audit of accounts. officer appointed by him, examine and report to the Minister upon the accounts of any gas company; or

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Sydney: Alfred James Kent, Government Printer-1926.

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