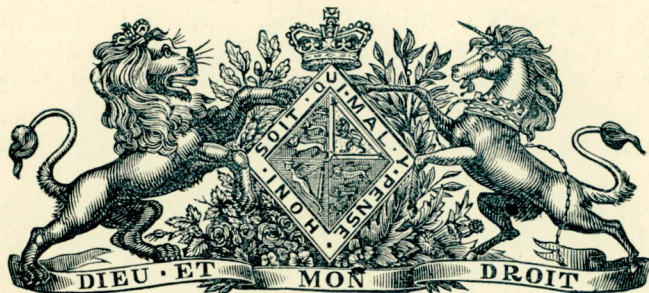


This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

*Legislative Assembly Chamber,
Sydney, 15 August, 1900.* }

F. W. WEBB,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

New South Wales.



ANNO SEXAGESIMO QUARTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Act No. , 1900.

An Act to limit the hours of employment and working below ground in mines, and for other purposes connected therewith.

BE it enacted by the Queen'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:—

- 5 1. This Act shall take effect from the first day of October, one thousand nine hundred, and may be cited as the "Mines (Eight Hours) Act, 1900." Commencement and short title.
2. Anything contained in the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, Repeal. contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be, and is hereby, repealed.
- 10 3. In the construction of this Act, unless the context otherwise Definitions. indicates,—
- "Inspector" means inspector of mines or inspector of collieries, and includes the chief inspector of mines and the chief inspector of coal mines.

Mines (Eight Hours).

“Mine” includes any pit, shaft, tunnel, drive, level, or other excavation wherein or whereby any operation is carried on for or in connection with the purpose of obtaining any precious stones, metal, or mineral by any mode or method.

- 5 **4.** (1) Except in case of emergency where life or property is in danger, no person other than the owner or a person acting in the management of the mine shall be employed or work below ground in any mine for a period exceeding eight hours in any one day of twenty-four hours. Hours of employment below ground.
- 10 The period of employment or working below ground shall be deemed to begin when the person employed or working as aforesaid descends or enters the mine, to continue during the time that such person is employed or works below ground in the mine, and to end when such person returns to the surface after such work or employ-
15 ment.
- (2) Whosoever employs any person or causes or knowingly permits any person to be employed or to work, and whosoever works in contravention of this section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.
- 20 **5.** An inspector may enter any mine and make such inquiry as may be necessary to ascertain whether, in the case of such mine, the provisions of this Act are being or have been complied with. Powers of inspector.
- 6.** Every person who wilfully obstructs or causes any other person to obstruct any inspector in the execution of any powers
25 conferred on him by this Act, and any person acting in the management of a mine or employing miners, or any owner of a mine, who refuses or neglects to furnish the means necessary for making any entry or inquiry authorised by this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. Obstructing inspector and hindering entry.
- 30 **7.** Every person guilty of an offence against this Act shall, for each such offence, be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings. Penalties.
- 8.** All penalties imposed by this Act may be recovered before, and all informations for offences against this Act may be heard and
determined in a summary way, by a court of petty sessions. Recovery of penalties.
- 35 **9.** Every information in pursuance of this Act shall be laid within three months from the time when the offence was committed :
Provided that nothing in this section shall operate to prevent the
hearing and determination of any such information where the person
laying the information proves that the matter of the information first
40 came to his knowledge within three months from the time when the information was laid. Time of laying information.

1900.

Legislative Council.

MINES EIGHT HOURS BILL.

(*New clauses to be proposed in Committee of the Whole by*
MR. BROWN.)

Page 2. *After clause 9 insert the following new clauses:—*

The owner, lessee, agent, or manager of every mine affected by the provisions of this Act shall be constantly in attendance during working hours to maintain order and decorum by the workmen employed therein, and it shall be lawful for such owner, lessee, agent, or manager aforesaid to employ a sufficient number of deputies, special constables, or other qualified persons to maintain such order and decorum as aforesaid, and to eject from such mine any workman or other person employed therein who shall be found idling, loitering, or otherwise misbehaving himself either during working hours or going to or returning from such employment as aforesaid.

Every workman or other person employed in any mine shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, if in going to or returning from his work he does not, except in case of illness or inevitable accident, travel at a speed not less than two English miles of one thousand seven hundred and sixty yards per hour.

There shall be kept in every mine in some easily accessible place a reliable pedometer, and such pedometer shall be certified to as correct for all purposes of travelling measurement once in every six months by the Government Astronomer of New South Wales for the time being, and every certificate bearing the seal and signature of such Government Astronomer as aforesaid shall be receivable and available in evidence in all Courts of Justice as final and conclusive.

THE EIGHT HOURS BILL

The Eight Hours Bill, introduced in the House of Representatives on March 10, 1900, was a landmark piece of legislation that sought to limit the workday for certain classes of workers to eight hours per day. The bill was sponsored by Representative Charles D. Smith of New York and passed by a vote of 217 to 197 on March 10, 1900.

The bill applied to workers in manufacturing, mining, and other industries. It stipulated that no employer should require any worker to work more than eight hours in any one day, or more than 48 hours in any one week. The bill also provided for the payment of overtime pay for any work in excess of the eight-hour day.

The bill was a response to the growing concern over the health and safety of workers, particularly in the mining and manufacturing sectors. The long hours of work had led to a high incidence of accidents and health problems among workers. The bill was seen as a step towards improving the conditions of the working class.

However, the bill faced significant opposition from employers and certain members of Congress. They argued that the bill would reduce productivity and increase the cost of goods. Despite these objections, the bill was passed and signed into law by President McKinley on March 10, 1900.

The Eight Hours Bill was a significant milestone in the history of labor reform in the United States. It established a precedent for the government's role in regulating the workplace and protecting the rights of workers. The bill's passage was a testament to the growing power of the labor movement and the public's demand for reform.