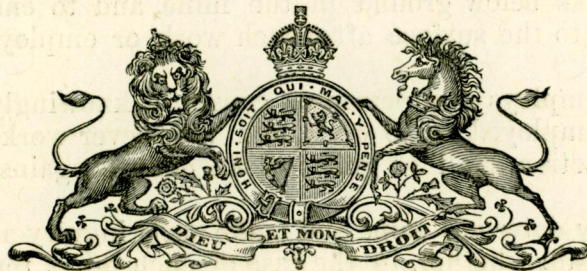


This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

Legislative Assembly Chamber,)
Sydney, 2 September, 1903. } RICHD. A. ARNOLD,
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

New South Wales.



ANNO TERTIO

EDWARDI VII REGIS.

Act No. , 1903.

An Act to limit the hours of employment and working below ground in coal and shale mines, and for other 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 the same, as follows:—

5 1. This Act shall take effect from the first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and three, and may be cited as the "Coal and Shale Mines (Eight Hours) Act, 1903." Commencement and short title.

 2. In the construction of this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates,— Definitions.

10 "Inspector" means inspector of collieries, and includes the chief inspector of coal mines.

"Mine"

Coal and Shale 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 coal or shale by any mode or method.

- 5 **3.** (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 employment.
- 15 **(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 **4.** 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.
- 25 **5.** Every person who wilfully obstructs or causes any other person to obstruct any inspector in the execution of any powers 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 **6.** Every person guilty of an offence against this Act shall, for each such offence, be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings. Penalties.
- 35 **7.** All penalties imposed by this Act may be recovered before a court of petty sessions, and all informations for offences against this Act shall be laid by an inspector and may be heard and determined in a summary way by such court. Recovery of penalties.
- 40 **8.** 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 came to his knowledge within three months from the time when the information was laid. Time of laying information.