

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1924.

A BILL

To extend certain provisions of the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, to quarries and dredges; to amend the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, the Coal Mines Regulation 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. This Act may be cited as the "Mines Inspection Short title.
 (Amendment) Act, 1924," and shall be read and construed with the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, as amended

by subsequent Acts. The Mines Inspection Act, 1901, as so amended, is hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act.

Amendment
of s. 4 of Prin-
cipal Act.

2. Section four of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the following definitions:— 5

Act No. 75,
1901.

“Dredge” means and includes dredge, barge, pontoon, or other structure used in carrying on mining operations by means of dredging or sluicing.

“Metal” and “mineral” include any substance which is a mineral as defined in the Mining Act, 1906, and sandstone, basalt, andesite, trachyte, porphyry, and any other substance which may from time to time be declared a mineral within the meaning of this Act by proclamation of the Governor published in the Gazette. 10
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“Quarry” means and includes any quarry, place, open cut, or excavation in which, or whereby any operation is conducted above ground for the purpose of obtaining any metal or mineral, and any place adjoining thereto on which any product of the quarry is stacked, stored, crushed, or otherwise treated. 20

Amendment
of Principal
Act.

3. The following section is inserted next after section four of the Principal Act:— 25

Application
of certain
enactments to
dredges.

4A. The provisions of the following enactments of this Act relating to mines are mutatis mutandis extended to apply in relation to dredges:—

Division 2 of Part II. 30

Division 3 of Part II, so far as the enactments in such division relate to engine-drivers.

Section thirty-six.

Section thirty-seven.

Section thirty-nine. 35

Section forty-three.

Section forty-six.

Section forty-eight.

Part VI.

Provided

Mines Inspection (Amendment).

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Provided that the provisions of section twelve shall not so apply until after the expiration of six months from the commencement of the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924.

5 **4.** Section five of the Principal Act is amended— Amendment
of s. 5 of Prin-
cipal Act.

(a) by omitting from subsection four the words "twelve months" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "such period as the Minister may decide";

10 (b) by inserting the following subsection next after subsection four:—

(4A) Provided also that where more than twenty persons but not more than forty persons are employed below ground in the mine it shall be sufficient for the manager to hold a permit, which the Minister is hereby authorised to grant upon the recommendation of the board of examiners of mine managers; such permit shall only be granted to a person who has given evidence of his sobriety and general good conduct, and that he has had not less than five years practical experience underground, including three years as miner, timberman, or pitman, and two years as manager, under-manager, mine foreman, or shift boss in a mine in which not less than ten persons were ordinarily employed below ground. Such permit shall remain in force for such period as the Minister may decide and may be renewed from time to time by the Minister;

30 (c) by inserting the following subsection next after subsection five:—

(5A) Provided also that a manager may be absent from the mine for purposes of recreation for any period not exceeding two months in any year, in which case the owner, on giving notice to the chief inspector of mines, may appoint a competent person not holding a certificate as aforesaid, who is under-manager or some other official of the mine with not less than three years practical experience in

a mine, including eighteen months working regular shift as miner or timberman, to be manager during the period of such absence.

New s. 5A of Principal Act.

5. The following section is inserted next after section five of the Principal Act:— 5

5A. (1) Any quarry in which more than ten men are employed shall be under a manager, who shall exercise supervision of and be responsible for the control, management, and direction of the quarry. The manager shall be the holder of a permit, which the Minister is hereby authorised to grant; such permit shall remain in force for such period as the Minister may decide, but may be renewed from time to time by the Minister. 10

Control of dredge.

(2) (a) Any dredge shall be under a person in charge, who shall be responsible for the control; management, and direction of such dredge; 15

(b) such person in charge shall be the owner of the dredge, or some person nominated by him; 20

(c) such owner shall notify the inspector in writing whether he or any other person so nominated is in charge.

Amendment of s. 6 of Principal Act.

6. Section six of the Principal Act is amended by omitting the second paragraph of subsection one. 25

Repeal of s. 7 of Principal Act.

7. Section seven of the Principal Act is repealed, and the following is inserted in its place:—

Certificate of competency.

7. (1) The Minister shall grant a certificate of competency as manager to every applicant who is duly reported by the board of examiners— 30

(a) to have given satisfactory evidence of his sobriety, experience, ability, and general good conduct, and that he has had practical experience in a mine for at least three years; and 35

(b) (i) to have passed satisfactorily an examination held by the said board: such examination shall be partly in writing and partly oral: and regard shall be had to such knowledge as is necessary for the practical working of mines in New South Wales; or 40
(ii)

5 (ii) to have passed satisfactorily an examination in the Mines Inspection Acts and the rules and regulations made thereunder, and to have satisfied the board that he is at the date of application a bachelor of engineering in mining and metallurgy of the University of Sydney, or a graduate of any other university or a school of mines, and holds a diploma or certificate of such university or school, considered by the board to be equivalent to the degree of bachelor of engineering in mining and metallurgy of the University of Sydney.

15 (2) A certificate of competency may be either—
 (a) a lode mine manager's certificate, entitling the holder to act as manager of a lode mine; or
 20 (b) an alluvial mine manager's certificate, entitling the holder to act as manager of an alluvial mine.

8. Subsection one of section eight of the Principal Act is amended by inserting at the end of the subsection the words "Provided also that no such certificate shall be
 25 granted under the above provisions after the expiration of six months from the commencement of the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924.

Amendment
of s. 8 of
Principal
Act.

9. Section twelve of the Principal Act is amended by omitting all the words following the words "offence
 30 against this Act" and by inserting the following in lieu thereof:—"A boiler under steam used in connection with any mine shall be deemed to be machinery within the meaning of this section.

Amendment
of s. 12 of
Principal
Act.

"This section shall not extend to persons in charge of—

- 35 (1) sinking pumps and boring machines;
 (2) air winches when used for work on the surface;
 (3) small air-hoists in which the diameter of the cylinders does not exceed four inches and the length of the stroke does not exceed six inches,
 40 and which are used for other than for raising and lowering men; also any other air-hoists which do not develop more than ten brake
 horse-power

horse-power and which are used for other than for raising and lowering men: Provided that the person in charge of any such hoist shall be the holder of a permit empowering him to drive the same issued by an inspector. The Minister may make rules prescribing the form and duration of such permit and the conditions under which it may be issued and used by the holder, and may cancel any such permit at any time;

- (1) air-driven pumps used underground;
- (5) air-driven engines having cylinders not exceeding four inches in diameter;
- (6) electric motors which are used for other than traction, and which do not develop more than ten brake horse-power, and in which the starting switch is a metal-cased oil circuit breaker, or in which starting and acceleration are effected by contactor switches operated either automatically or by push buttons;
- (7) electric motors on overhead hoists in which starting and acceleration are effected by drum controller operated by ropes from the floor level.

Amendment
of s. 14 of
Principal Act.

10. Section fourteen of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the word "engine-drivers" the words "to have complied with the provisions of the rules made under this division of this Part of this Act."

Amendment
of s. 15 of
Principal
Act.

11. Section fifteen of the same Act is further amended by inserting at the end of subsection one the following proviso and new subsection:—

Provided also that no such certificate shall be granted under the above provisions after the expiration of six months from the commencement of the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924.

(1A) A certificate of service as engine-driver shall be granted by the Minister to every person who furnishes to the board of examiners of engine-drivers satisfactory evidence that he has been employed—

- (a) for a period of one month prior to the commencement of the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924, and is at the date of application employed as engine-driver at some quarry; or
- (b)

(b) as engine-driver at any quarry for a period of not less than twelve months within the five years immediately prior to the commencement of the said Act :

5 Provided that such certificate of service may be refused to any person who fails to give full and satisfactory information as to his name, and the place and date of his birth, and as to his sobriety and general good conduct, and to pay such registration fee as the Minister may direct, not exceeding
10 two pounds :

15 Provided also that no such certificate shall be granted under the above provisions after the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.

12. (1) Subsection one of section sixteen of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the words "or engineer" after the word "engine-driver" wherever occurring ; and by inserting the words "within or" after the word "authority" in such subsection. Amendment of s. 16 of Principal Act.

(2) Subsection two of the same section is amended by omitting the words "similar certificate" and by inserting in lieu thereof the words "certificate of competency or of service as engine-driver."

13. The following sections are inserted next after section sixteen of the Principal Act :— New ss. 16A, 16B, and 16C of Principal Act.

16A. (1) An inspector may grant a permit to any person being the holder of a certificate of competency or service as engine-driver or engineer granted by any duly constituted and recognised authority, and who has applied under the last preceding section for approval of such certificate. Permit for person applying for approval of his certificate.

(2) Every such permit shall be in such form as the Minister may approve, and shall specify the class of machinery to which it relates, and may be granted for any period not exceeding one calendar month.

(3) Every such permit shall be returned to the inspector upon expiration of the period for which it is granted, or upon approval of the holder's certificate, and any person failing so to return such permit shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. (4)

(4) The Minister may cancel any such permit at any time.

(5) The holder of a permit granted under this section shall, during the period therein named, be entitled to take charge at any time of any 5 machinery of the class therein described as if he were the holder of a certificate of competency or of service duly approved under the provisions of this Act.

Physical requirements of applicant for certificate.

16B. The board of examiners of engine-drivers 10 may require every applicant for a certificate of competency or of service, or for the approval of any such certificate, to produce satisfactory evidence of his physical fitness, and that his sight, hearing, and other faculties are unimpaired, and the 15 Minister may make rules prescribing the form of medical certificate to be furnished as to such qualifications.

Classes of certificates.

16c. (1) The Minister may make rules prescribing the classes of certificates of competency 20 or service as engine-drivers to be granted under this Act; the qualifications of applicants for such certificates; and the machinery which each class of certificate shall entitle the holder to drive.

(2) Every such certificate shall contain a 25 description of the machinery or class of machinery which the holder is entitled to drive, and every such certificate granted, whether before or after the commencement of the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924, shall be valid and effectual only 30 in respect of the class of machinery therein described.

(3) Where the holder of a certificate makes application for a certificate of a higher class, the Minister may, before issuing such certificate, require the applicant to deliver up for cancellation 35 any other certificate granted under this Division of this Part of this Act which he may hold, and, upon the issue of such certificate of a higher class, the Minister may cancel the certificate so delivered up.

(4) If any applicant fails or refuses to 40 comply with the request of the Minister to deliver up

up any certificate the Minister may withhold the grant to the applicant of a certificate of a higher class until such request has been complied with.

5 **14.** Section twenty-seven of the Principal Act is hereby repealed. Repeal of s. 27 of Principal Act.

15. Subsection two of section thirty of the Principal Act is repealed, and the following is inserted in its place:— New subsection (2) of s. 30 of Principal Act.

10 (2) Any person who wilfully employs any person in contravention of the above provision shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

16. The following new section is inserted next after section thirty of the Principal Act:— New s. 30A of Principal Act.

15 30A. If any person in charge of a boiler under steam used in connection with any mine or of machinery in which steam, water, electricity, gas, oil, or air or any two or more of them are used as a motive power in connection with a mine, or with the treatment of the products of a mine, is guilty of negligence in such employment by which any property is destroyed or damaged, he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. Negligence in use of machinery.

17. Section thirty-two of the Principal Act is amended by the addition of the following subsection:— Amendment of s. 32 of Principal Act.

25 (4) Provided that any inspector appointed under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1912, shall be and may perform the duties of an inspector under this Act in respect of all quarries situated within the district to which such inspector is assigned, notwithstanding that such inspector is not the holder of a certificate of competency or service as specified in the last preceding subsection. 30

18. The following new section is inserted next after section forty-two of the Principal Act:— New s. 42A of Principal Act.

35 42A. (1) The owner of every mine, quarry, or dredge shall, during the month of January in each year, furnish to the Minister a full return showing the quantity and approximate value of the metal or mineral won from such mine or quarry, or from mining operations conducted by means of such dredge, Returns to be furnished. cf. Act No. 49, 1906, s. 115.

dredge during the preceding year ending thirty-first December; also showing the average number of men employed in or about such mine, quarry, or dredge, and such further particulars relating to the working and operations of the mine, quarry, or dredge (other than those relating to working costs or costs of production) as the Minister may from time to time require or demand. 5

(2) Every such return shall be in the form prescribed by the Minister, and if the owner of any such mine, quarry, or dredge is a public company, such return shall be furnished by the manager or person acting in the management, or by the secretary of the company. 10

(3) Any such owner, manager, person, or secretary who fails to furnish a return within the prescribed time or in the prescribed form, or makes any return which is to his knowledge false in any particular, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. 15 20

(4) The Minister may publish the aggregate results of the returns made under this section with respect to the whole of New South Wales, or to any particular mining district, or division, or any large portion thereof, but the portion of any individual return relating to the quantity and value of the metal or mineral won shall not be published without the consent of the person making the return, or of the owner of the mine to which it relates, and no person except the Minister or an officer of the Department of Mines shall be entitled, without such consent, to see such portion as aforesaid of any individual return. 25 30

Publication of returns.
cf. Act No. 37, 1912, s. 34.

Amendment of s. 44 of Principal Act.

New s. 44A of Principal Act.

Notice given to recommence working any mine.

19. Section forty-four of the Principal Act is amended by omitting paragraph (c), and by omitting the word "recommencement" in that section. 35

20. The following section is inserted next after section forty-four of the Principal Act:—

44A. Where the working of any mine or any part thereof is recommenced after any abandonment or discontinuance for a period exceeding two months, the 40

the owner or manager of such mine shall give notice thereof to an inspector within fourteen days after the recommencement, and if such notice is not given, the owner or manager shall be guilty of an offence against this Act: Provided that this section shall not apply to alluvial gold, platinum, or tin mines, or to mines of opal or precious stones.

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 10 **21.** Section forty-six of the Principal Act is amended by the addition of the following subsection:— Amendment of s. 46 of the Principal Act.

(4) Whenever any person to whom a license has been granted proves to the satisfaction of the Minister that he has, without fault on his part, lost or been deprived of such license, the Minister may cause a statement containing such particulars as the records of the Department of Mines may disclose with regard to the grant of such license to be made out and certified by the Chief Inspector of Mines, and delivered to the applicant; and any such statement shall have the same effect as the original license, and for the purposes of this Act shall be deemed to be a license of the same nature as the original license.

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 20 **22.** Subsection one of section fifty-six of the Principal Act is amended by inserting at the end of such subsection the following paragraph:— Amendment of s. 56 of Principal Act.

(vii) regulating the working of machinery on dredges, and making provision for the safety of life and property in connection with such dredges. Rules as to dredges.

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 30 **23.** Section seventeen of the Coroners' Act, 1912, is amended by inserting at the end of the definition of "mine," in subsection two, the words "and includes a dredge as defined in the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, as amended by the Mines Inspection (Amendment) Act, 1924." Amendment of Act No. 36 of 1912.

