

Enclosure.

SYNOPSIS of the ACTS PASSED by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of NEW ZEALAND in the Session of Parliament held in the Year 1894.

The Public General Statutes.

No. 1. The Imprest Supply Act authorises an advance of £278,500 out of the Public Account for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1895; the money to be charged in the manner expressed in the Appropriation Act of the session.

No. 2. The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act authorises the Bank to increase its capital by the issue of preferential shares to an amount not exceeding two million pounds sterling, such shares and the dividends thereon being guaranteed by the colony. It requires the directors, on the request of the Colonial Treasurer, to call up £500,000 of the reserve capital. The Act provides for the removal of the headquarters to Wellington, with a new Board of Directors to be elected, and the President and Auditor of the Bank to be appointed by the Governor of the Colony in Council.

No. 3. The Bank-note Issue Act 1893 Amendment Act extends for a further period of twelve months the operation of Part II. of the principal Act.

No. 4. The Bank Shareholders Act empowers the directors of any bank to decline to register any transfer of shares to any person of whose responsibility they are not satisfied. (This Act is virtually superseded by Act No. 6, below mentioned.)

No. 5. The Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act 1894 Amendment Act amends the foregoing Act No. 2, by authorising the issue of bank stock in the place of the bank shares mentioned in the principal Act.

No. 6. The Bank Directors and Shares Transfer Act provides that the liability of a transferer of bank shares shall not cease on executing the transfer, but only on approval of the transfer by the directors, and gives them power to decline the transfer without assigning a reason. The Act also fixes the number of directors of all banks at not less than five nor more than seven.

No. 7. The Imprest Supply Act (No. 2) authorises a further advance of £258,500 in the same manner as stated in the above-mentioned Imprest Supply Act (No. 1).

No. 8. The Land-tax Act fixes the amount of the land-tax to be levied, and the mode of collecting the same, in respect of the financial year commencing on the 1st April, 1894.

No. 9. The Lunatics Act Amendment Act provides that Official Visitors of lunatic asylums need not be Justices of the Peace.

No. 10. The Light and Air Act declares section 3 of "The Prescription Act, 1832" (Imperial), to be no longer in force in the colony, as inapplicable thereto, and makes certain provision as to the right of access of light and air to land and buildings.

No. 11. The Taonui Branch Railway Act authorises the closing and abandonment of a forest branch railway which has served its purpose.

No. 12. The Auctioneers Act Amendment Act extends the definition of "sales by auction" and "outcry," in order to prevent evasions of the principal Act.

No. 13. The Conspiracy Law Amendment Act provides that a combination of persons to do any act which would not be unlawful if done by one person shall not be deemed to be conspiracy, and repeals as within the colony the 5 Eliz., cap. 4, the 12 Geo. I., cap., 34, and the 6 Geo. IV., cap. 129.

No. 14. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides a system of registration of industrial unions and associations, the establishment of Boards of Conciliation for settlement of industrial disputes between employers and employes, and, failing such settlement, a Court of Arbitration, to which matters in difference may be referred, and which may make an award thereon, and enforce such award.

No. 15. The Companies' Accounts Audit Act provides for the audit, by the Audit Department of the colony, of the accounts of any company or mining company on petition by majority of the shareholders of such company to the Governor.

No. 16. The Married Women's Property Act amends the principal Act to the same effect as is done in the Imperial Act, 56 and 57 Vict., c. 63.

No. 17. The Imprest Supply Act (No. 3) authorises a further advance of £308,500 in the same manner as stated in the above-mentioned Imprest Supply Act (No. 1).

No. 18. The Middle District of New Zealand University College Act provides for the establishment of a University College in Wellington for the benefit of residents in Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, and Marlborough Provincial Districts.

No. 19. The Designation of Districts Act empowers the Governor to alter the names of any district or place, so as to avoid duplication, similarity, or unfitness of names.

No. 20. The Gaming Act provides that money arising from gaming transactions shall not be recoverable at law, makes it penal to bet or induce any infant to bet, and further regulates the use of the totalisator.

No. 21. The Oaths Act Amendment Act permits the use of the Scotch form of oath, and provides that children under twelve may make a declaration in lieu of being sworn.

No. 22. The Destitute Persons Act consolidates the law relating to destitute persons, illegitimate children, and deserted wives and children, makes provision for intercolonial reciprocity in the surrender of runaway husbands, and enacts from the English statute, 41 Vict., c. 19, the provisions of section 4 thereof, to enable a Magistrate to make an order that a wife shall not be bound to cohabit with a husband who has been guilty of an aggravated assault upon her.

No. 23. The New Zealand Company's Land Claimants Act 1892 Amendment Act extends the operation of the principal Act for a further period of two years.