NEW ZEALAND.



TRICESIMO QUINTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. XL.

ANALYSIS.

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of drainage operations.

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An Act to provide for enforcing Contribution towards Title. the cost of Draining Gold Mines by the Owners of adjacent Mines. [14th November 1871.]

E IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the authority thereof as

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Gold Mines Short Title. Drainage Act 1871."

2. In the construction of this Act the words following shall have Interpretation.

the meanings assigned to them as follows:—
"Person" shall include incorporated companies "Machine" shall include any appliance whatever for raising or lifting water from mines "Owner" any person for the time being having possession of and working a machine "Mine" shall mean any shaft or excavation sunk or worked

for the purpose of obtaining gold thereby or therefrom.

3. The owner of any machine which is employed in draining Machine owners. water from any mine shall be entitled to receive from the holders of or entitled to contribution for drainage. persons working adjacent mines benefited by such machine contribution towards the expenses thereof.

4. Such owner intending to claim contribution as aforesaid shall Notice to be given serve upon one of such holders or persons a notice in writing stating of intention to require contribution. that he claims contribution and the amount claimed and that if such

Gold Mines Drainage.

contribution is not agreed to an application will be made to the Warden's Court to enforce the same.

5. If the persons from whom contribution is so required refuse to contribute to the amount stated in the notice or for twenty-one days shall neglect to signify their assent thereto it shall be lawful for the owner of the machine to commence an action in the Warden's Court.

6. A summons shall thereupon be issued and all proceedings shall be conducted and carried on in like manner as in ordinary actions in the Warden's Court and the provisions of any Act in force under which such Court is constituted and all rules and regulations appli-

cable thereto shall apply to the proceedings under this Act.

7. On hearing the case the Court shall first determine whether the defendant is benefited by the machinery of the plaintiff and if so the Court shall forthwith or at some adjournment proceed to determine the amount of contribution which it would be reasonable under all the circumstances of the case for the defendant to pay to the plaintiff and the time mode and conditions of payment and the period not exceeding

twelve months during which such contribution shall be continued.

8. An order of Court shall be drawn up in conformity with such determination and shall be served on the defendant or left with the manager of the mine in respect of which contribution is required.

9. If at any time any sum due in respect of such contribution is not paid as directed by such order the plaintiff may issue execution from the Warden's Court to enforce payment in the form applicable to

- ordinary proceedings.

 10. At the termination of the period fixed for payment of any contribution it shall be lawful for the machine owner to give another notice as aforesaid whereupon the like proceedings shall be taken as herein provided in respect of the first notice and if a further order for contribution is made by the Court such contribution shall commence from the termination of the period fixed in the next preceding order.
- 11. If at any time the owner of any machine to whom contribution is paid as aforesaid shall intend to discontinue drainage operations he shall give at least six calendar months' notice of such his intention to all contributors and if he do not do so he shall be liable for any injury that they may sustain in consequence of the more early stoppage of the drainage machine to be recovered as damages in the Warden's Court.
- 12. Such machine owner shall not be liable for any injury or damage on account of the sudden stoppage of drainage operations, if such stoppage was caused by accident to machinery or other cause over which he had no control Provided that all due diligence be exercised in repairing such damage or injury.

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