

Mr. Millar.

## EMPLOYERS' PRIVATE BENEFIT SOCIETY.

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### A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to better regulate the Working of Benefit Societies established by Employers for their Employés. Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Employers' Private Benefit Society Act, 1894," and it shall come into force on the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four. Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—

"Employer" means any individual, company, manager, agent, or foreman who employs any person for hire or reward: Interpretation.

"Employé" means any person permanently employed, whether by the day, week, month, year, or by piecework:

15 "Society" means any society promoted by an employer which offers to the employés benefits beyond their ordinary hire or reward, and to which the employé contributes money or money's worth:

20 "Funds" mean the moneys contributed by members, and includes all subsidies or contributions by employers:

"Registrar" means the Registrar-General of Friendly Societies.

3. Every society now in existence shall within two months after the passing of this Act, and every society hereafter established shall within one month after its formation, become registered as a benefit society under this Act. Registration.

Members' qualifications.	4. Every employé, but none other, shall be eligible for membership of any society, but such membership must be of a purely voluntary nature.	
Membership to be voluntary.	5. No employer shall make membership of any society a condition precedent to or during the currency of employment of any employé.	5
Mode of management.	6. The management of a society shall be conducted by members of the society, who shall, for that purpose, elect by ballot members to the offices hereinafter mentioned.	
Officers for management.	7. For the purposes of management every society shall have a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and two trustees, one of whom shall be appointed by the employer.	10
Funds, how raised.	8. The funds of every such society shall be raised by contributions from the employer and employé, in such sums and at such places as may be defined in the registered rules of such society, always provided that the contribution of the employer is not less than fifty per centum of such sum or sums as may be contributed by the employés, and paid at such time and place as is fixed for all other contributions or payments.	15
Special fund.	9. Every employer shall, upon the formation of a society, deposit in the Post-Office Savings-Bank, in the name of the trustees of the society, a sum of one pound for every member enrolled at date of application for registration of such society; but such sum shall not be drawn upon unless the ordinary funds of the society are exhausted. All interest which may accrue upon such deposit shall be the property of the employer, and paid annually to him by the trustees: Provided also that— If upon the annual return showing that the membership has increased or decreased, the employer shall deposit in or withdraw from such fund the amount which is required by this section to be placed in such fund for each member of the society; If in the event of the society having to draw upon this fund at any time, any amount so drawn shall be refunded to the trustees from the ordinary fund as soon as that fund has the amount necessary to credit thereof.	20 25 30
Provision for banking.	10. All funds shall be deposited in the Post-Office Savings-Bank by the trustees in the name of the society, and shall only be used for the purposes provided for in the registered rules of the society.	
Division of funds.	11. The funds of every such society shall, after the payment of all liabilities and provision made for all ascertained liabilities, be divided <i>pro rata</i> amongst all contributors.	35
Employer may at half-yearly or yearly meeting declare intention of withdrawing.	12. Any employer may, at the half-yearly or yearly meeting of the society, declare his intention of withdrawing from same, when the society shall be dissolved, or a majority of members may determine the same. In such case the funds of the society shall be dealt with as provided for in the previous section of this Act.	45
Auditing accounts.	13. The accounts of any society shall be audited half-yearly by an accountant, who shall not be a member of the society, but elected annually by the members of the society to perform this work.	50
Secretary's duties.	14. The secretary appointed shall, in addition to keeping the books of the society, provide for members at each half-yearly meeting	

a balance-sheet, which must show the true position of the society, and be signed as correct by the auditor; and a copy of this balance-sheet, signed by the auditor, secretary, and employer, must be forwarded within fourteen days to the Registrar.

5     15. The treasurer shall receive all moneys of the society, and pay the same over to the trustees at such times as provided for in the registered rules of the society. Treasurer's duties.

10     16. The trustees shall receive all moneys from the treasurer, and place the same to the credit of the funds of the society in the Post-Office Savings-Bank. They shall withdraw moneys from such account for the payment of any claims against the society when required to do so by a resolution of the members in meeting assembled. They shall not invest the moneys in any other manner save as laid down by this section. They may sue or be sued on behalf of the society. Trustees' duties.

15     17. The rules of every society shall make provision for— Rules of the society

(1.) Its title.

(2.) A registered office.

(3.) Mode of appointing or dismissing officers.

20     (4.) Scale of contributions for members.

(5.) Benefits guaranteed to members.

(6.) Purposes to which funds shall be devoted.

(7.) How funds are to be deposited and withdrawn.

(8.) Duties of officers.

25     (9.) Right of members to inspect books.

(10.) Provision against honorary members.

(11.) Provision for surrender-value to members leaving.

(12.) For dissolution.

30     18. No application for registration shall be granted by the Registrar to any society until two copies of their rules have been sent to him, when, if he is satisfied that such rules clearly and explicitly comply with the provisions of this Act, he will cause the application to be granted. No fees shall be charged for registration. Registration not to be granted until two copies of rules deposited and approved.  
No fees chargeable.

35     19. In any case where any employer, directly or indirectly, makes membership of the society a condition of employment, or dismisses an employé through refusal to join it, he shall be liable, on summary conviction before a Stipendiary Magistrate or any two Justices of the Peace, to a penalty of *ten* pounds for each offence. Employer must not make membership of society condition of employment.