

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AMENDMENT BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

THIS Bill has been promoted primarily to give effect to certain resolutions adopted by the last Imperial Conference, and has been drafted in consultation with officers of the Imperial Board of Trade.

Clause 2: The first effect of this clause is to substitute for the several standard weights and measures mentioned in the Second Schedule to the principal Act two standards only—namely, (1) the standard pound; and (2) the standard yard. On this being effectively done, the weights and measures mentioned in the Second Schedule to the principal Act become secondary standards.

Clause 2 also provides for the periodical verification of the standard pound and the standard yard by comparison with the corresponding Imperial standards or the parliamentary copies thereof.

Clause 3: This clause makes provision for secondary standards of weight and measure, which are deemed to be derived from the primary standards; and further provides for the periodical verification of these secondary standards by comparison with the primary standards.

Clause 4: This clause practically re-enacts section ten of the principal Act, the only material difference being that the departmental standards are expressed to be copies of the secondary standards, instead of the primary standards.

Clause 5: Makes the necessary consequential repeals of the principal Act.

Clause 6: The purpose of this clause is to enable the Governor-General by Order in Council to revise from time to time the table of metric equivalents set out in the Third Schedule to the principal Act. At the present time this table is not in exact conformity with the latest tables of metrical equivalents prescribed in England.

Clause 7: This clause remedies what would appear to be a defect in section 19 of the principal Act. That section deals with the offence of selling goods, or of exposing or offering goods for sale, in either case in packages that are incorrectly labelled as to the net weight or net measure of their contents. The Bill extends the application of the section referred to so as to bring within its scope the having in possession, with a view to sale, of goods contained in packages that are incorrectly labelled as to the net weight or net measure of their contents.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	4. Departmental standards of weight and measure.
1. Short Title.	5. Consequential repeals.
2. Standards of weight and measure.	6. Section 14 of principal Act amended.
3. Secondary standards of weight and measure.	7. Section 19 of principal Act amended.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1925. Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Weights and Measures Amendment Act, 1933, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Weights and Measures Act, 1925 (hereinafter referred to as the
10 principal Act). Short Title.
See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. VIII, p. 1145

2. (1) Forthwith after the passing of this Act the Minister shall procure copies of the Imperial standard pound and the Imperial standard yard respectively, verified by comparison with the corresponding Imperial
15 standards or with the parliamentary copies thereof. Standards of weight and measure.

(2) On a date to be fixed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette* the verified copies of the Imperial standard pound and the Imperial standard yard procured by the Minister in accordance with the *last preceding*
20 subsection shall be the standard weight and the standard measure respectively of New Zealand, and the several

standards of weight and measure referred to in the Second Schedule to the principal Act shall thereupon cease to be the standard weights and measures of New Zealand.

(3) If the standard weight or the standard measure is lost or destroyed, or is so injured as to be unfit to be used as a standard, the Minister shall procure another standard of the like denomination, verified by comparison with the Imperial standard or with a parliamentary copy of such standard. 5

(4) The standard weight and the standard measure shall from time to time, at intervals not exceeding ten years, be compared with the corresponding Imperial standards or with the parliamentary copies thereof, and any errors thereby ascertained shall thereafter be taken into account. 10 15

Secondary standards of weight and measure.

3. (1) When in accordance with the provisions of the *last preceding* section the several weights and measures referred to in the Second Schedule to the principal Act cease to be the standard weights and measures of New Zealand, they shall be deemed to be secondary standards. 20 The Minister may from time to time provide such additional secondary standards as may be necessary for carrying out the verifications prescribed by the principal Act or this Act, and may at any time renew any secondary standard. 25

(2) The secondary standards referred to in the *last preceding* subsection shall be deemed to be derived from the standard weight and the standard measure respectively, and shall from time to time, at intervals not exceeding five years, be compared with such standard weight and standard measure, in manner prescribed by the Governor-General in Council by regulations made under section thirty-nine of the principal Act. 30

(3) The Minister shall be charged with the custody of the standard weight and the standard measure, and of the secondary standards derived therefrom. 35

Departmental standards of weight and measure.

4. (1) The Minister shall from time to time provide copies of the secondary standards referred to in the *last preceding* section, to be known as departmental standards. 40

(2) The departmental standards shall be verified by comparison with the secondary standards, and shall be deposited in the office of the Chief Inspector.

(3) The departmental standards shall be renewed from time to time when necessary. 45

5 5. The foregoing provisions of this Act are in substitution for sections six and ten of the principal Act, and those sections shall be deemed to be repealed on the date fixed by the Minister pursuant to subsection *two* of section *two* of this Act.

Consequential repeals.

6. (1) Section fourteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one thereof the words "or the metric equivalent thereof as described in the Third Schedule hereto", and substituting the words "or a weight or measure of the metric system".

Section 14 of principal Act amended.

(2) The table in the Third Schedule to the principal Act shall, unless and until altered pursuant to the provisions of the *next succeeding* subsection, be deemed to set forth the metric equivalents of the several Imperial weights and measures therein referred to.

(3) The Governor-General may by Order in Council prescribe a table of metric equivalents in substitution in whole or in part for the table in the Third Schedule to the principal Act, and for this purpose shall have regard to the table or tables of metric equivalents for the time being in force under section two of the Weights and Measures (Metric System) Act, 1897 (Imperial). On the taking effect of any such Order in Council the Third Schedule to the principal Act, or so much thereof as is superseded by such Order in Council, shall be deemed to be repealed.

7. Section nineteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing subsection one and substituting the following subsection:—

Section 19 of principal Act amended.

30 " (1) Except as may be otherwise specially provided by regulations in that behalf, where what purports to be the weight or measure of any goods sold or held in possession for sale is written or printed on a package enclosing such goods, or, pursuant to the *last preceding* section, is stated in an invoice or delivery note, and the weight or measure so written, printed, or stated, is not the true net weight or net measure, the person having such goods in possession for sale, or the seller, or the person offering or exposing them for sale, as the case may be, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable for each such offence to a fine of *fifty* pounds."