

## New Zealand.



### ANALYSIS.

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1893, No. 19.

Title.

AN ACT for the further Amendment of the Post Office Acts.  
[19th September, 1893.]

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

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Post Office Acts Amendment Act, 1893." It shall be deemed to be incorporated with "The Post Office Act, 1881" (herein referred to as "the principal Act"), and to be included within "the Post Office Acts" defined in section two of the principal Act.

Definition.

2. In the definition of the word "letter," in section two of the principal Act, there shall be inserted the word "letter-cards" after the word "post-cards."

Newspapers or other papers containing indecent matter may be destroyed.

3. Whenever the Postmaster-General, or any Postmaster, has reason to believe that any newspaper, packet, or parcel, addressed to any person (either by his own or any fictitious name or assumed name), or to any address without a name, posted in New Zealand or elsewhere, contains, or is supposed to contain, any printed or written matter of any kind, or any print, photograph, lithograph, engraving, card, letter, circular, placard, handbill, or supplement, whether forming part of such newspaper, packet, or parcel or not, which is of an indecent, or immoral, or obscene nature, or which the Postmaster-General or Postmaster is satisfied has, or is likely to have, an indecent, immoral, prurient, or obscene effect, he may cause such newspaper, packet, or parcel to be detained in any post-office, and refuse to forward or deliver the same, and may cause such newspaper, packet, or parcel to be opened in such office, and, if found to contain matter which is in contravention of this Act, shall cause the same and the contents thereof to be completely destroyed.

If any Postmaster has any doubt as to whether the provisions of this Act should be enforced in any particular case he may refer the matter to the Postmaster-General for his decision; and the decision of the Postmaster-General shall be final and conclusive; and no person whomsoever shall have any claim or demand against Her Majesty the Queen, the Postmaster-General, or any Postmaster, officer, or person for or by reason of the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Act.

4. Sections twelve and thirteen of the principal Act are hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

- (1.) The Postmaster-General may furnish and issue post-cards and letter-cards to the public, for transmission by post between places either within or beyond New Zealand.

Power to issue post-cards and letter-cards for transmission by post either within or beyond the colony.

Such cards, respectively, shall have a stamp of the postage-rate impressed or engraved upon them, and be manufactured of paper of such quality, form, and size as the Postmaster-General shall deem best adapted for general use.

- (2.) The postage-rate for the said cards, respectively, when transmitted to places within the colony, shall be such amount as may be fixed from time to time by the Governor in Council; and, with respect to the said cards respectively which may be transmitted to places beyond the colony, the Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Governor in Council, may from time to time make arrangements with the constituted authorities in England, or in any of Her Majesty's colonies or possessions, or in any foreign country, for the reciprocal transmission of post-cards and letter-cards by means of the Post Office, subject to the payment of such rate of postage in respect of the same as may be mutually arranged in each case.

- (3.) Letter-cards shall, for the purpose of the Post Office Acts, be deemed to be post-cards.

- (4.) Section two of "The Post Office Act, 1889," is hereby repealed.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in section eighteen of the principal Act, the Postmaster-General may pay out of the postal revenue any sum not exceeding two pounds, as compensation for the loss of any registered letter, on production of evidence which will satisfy him of such loss, and subject to such regulations as may be made by the Governor in Council from time to time for carrying into effect the provisions of this section.

Compensation for damage to contents of registered letter.

6. Any notice of the intended departure of a vessel, required to be given by sections thirty-five or thirty-seven of the principal Act by the master of the vessel, may be given by the agent of such vessel, or other person acting as agent for the master thereof.

Notices of sailing of ship may be given by ship's or master's agent.

7. Section forty-one of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

Declaration by masters of vessels on arrival.

The master of any vessel arriving at any port in the colony at which there is any post-office shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, subscribe a declaration in the presence of and attested by a witness in the form or to the effect following, that is to say:—

“ I, A.B., master of the [*State the name of the vessel*], arrived from [*State the place*], do solemnly declare that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, delivered to C.D., the person duly authorised to receive delivery thereof, every mail-bag and letter that was on board the said vessel, except such letters as are not required by law to be sent by post :”

and shall deliver such declaration to the person duly authorised to receive the mail-bags for the Postmaster or post officer at such port, or the town or place adjacent thereto, who on receipt of the said declaration shall grant a certificate under his hand of the making thereof; and, until such certificate is produced to the Collector or other proper officer of Customs at such port, he shall not permit such vessel to report. And any master failing or refusing to make such declaration, or making a false declaration, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

8. “The Post Office (Postal Notes) Act, 1885,” is hereby amended as follows :—

(1.) In section three thereof, the words “in the form set forth in the Schedule to this Act” shall be repealed, and the words “in such form as the Governor by Order in Council may from time to time prescribe” shall be substituted in lieu thereof.

(2.) The Schedule to that Act is hereby repealed.

9. Section three of “The Post Office Acts Amendment Act, 1891,” is hereby amended by repealing the second paragraph of the said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The currency of all postal notes issued under the said Act or this Act shall be unlimited in time, and the said Acts and all regulations made thereunder shall be read and construed accordingly.”

Governor in Council  
may prescribe form  
of postal notes.

Currency of postal  
notes.