THE GOLD ACT, 1909.

ANALYSIS.

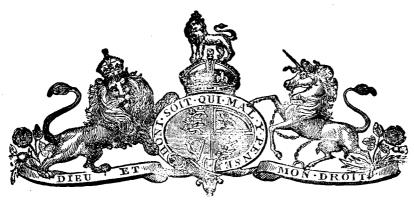
- 1. Short title and commencement.
- 2. Repeal of 8 Ed. VII. No. 41.
- 3. Interpretation.
- 4. Non-application of Act.
- 5. Gold-buyers.
- 6. Provisions as to jewellers and other gold-manufacturers.
- 7. Application for licence.
- 8. Minister may grant licence.
- 9. Licences to banking companies.
- 10. Certain persons not to be licensed.
- 11. Renewal of licence.
- 12. Continuance of licence.
- 13. Revocation of licence.
- Gold Register Books.
 Supervision of sales and entries thereof.
- 15. Regulations to be observed by licensees.
 - Books to be kept showing gold received.
 - Penalty.
 - Book to show how gold disposed of. Penalty.
 - Production of licence-books in cer-
 - tain cases.

 Dealer to inform police when gold supposed to be stolen, &c., came into his possession.
 - Form of gold not to be changed for Five days.
 - Penalty.

- 16. Entries in gold-buyer's book deemed to have been made by him.
- 17. Penalty for false entry.
- 18. Purchase of gold.
- 19. Gold-buyer, &c., may take declaration from seller.
- 20. Penalty on unlicensed person pretending to be licensed, &c.
- 21. Gold not to be left at licensed house.
- 22. Gold-buyer not to have assaying appliances.
- 23. No child under Fifteen to sell gold.
- 24. Person deemed to be unlicensed if not producing licence.
- 25. Registration of appliance for treating gold.
- 26. Penalty for non-performance of provisions of this Act.
- 27. Person in possession of gold to account for same.
- 28. Untrue statement by seller.
- 29. Untrue statement by witness to sale.
- 30. Untrue entries by buyer or smelter.
- 31. Untrue statements to the Minister.
- 32. Penalty for offence against Act.
- 33. Enforcement.
- 34. Regulations.
- 35. Burden of proof.
- 36. Warrant to search premises for gold, &c., unlawfully in possession.
- 37. Accomplice.
- 38. Procedure,

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TASMANIA.



1909.

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EDWARDI VII. REGIS.

No. 48.

AN ACT to regulate the Buying of Gold, 1909. and for other purposes. [30 December, 1909.]

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:—

1--(1.) This Act may be cited as 'The Gold Act, 1909." Short title and (2.) This Act shall commence and take effect on the First day of commencement. April, One thousand nine hundred and ten.

2 "The Gold Act, 1908," is hereby repealed as from the passing of Repeal of 8 Ed. this Act.

VII. No. 41.

3 In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

"Act" includes any regulation made thereunder:

"Bank" means any company engaged in the ordinary business of banking by receiving deposits and issuing bills or notes payable to the bearer at sight or on demand, and any reference to a person shall include a bank:

"Buy" and "purchase" include respectively any dealing with gold:

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A.D. 1909.

"Gold" or "unwrought gold" means gold, gold alloys, gold bullion, gold amalgam, retorted gold, smelted gold, gold precipitates, copper plates containing or retaining gold, and all earth, quartz, concentrates, and products containing gold in sufficient quantity to pay for treatment; but does not include money or wrought gold:

"Gold-buyer" means a person who buys gold, and includes a bank:

"Inspector of mines" means any inspector of mines appointed or acting under the "The Mining Act, 1905," and includes the Chief Inspector:

"Licence" means a valid and unexpired annual licence under this Act:

"Licensee" means the holder of a gold-buyer's licence:

- "Minister" means the Minister for Mines for the time being:
- "Prescribed" means prescribed by this Act or any regulation thereunder:

"Sell" includes any dealing with gold:

"Seller" includes any person acting or representing himself to be acting for a seller:

"Wrought gold" means gold and gold alloy which on view have apparently been worked or manufactured for trade purposes.

Non-application of Act.

- **4**—(1.) Nothing herein contained shall apply to the purchase of gold-bearing earth, tailings, concentrates, or products containing gold, by the proprietor of any crushing battery or treatment works from any registered leaseholder or claimholder, or tributer, or holder of a tailings licence, if it is proved by the buyer that the sale was effected by a contract in writing, signed by or on behalf of the seller and the buyer, setting forth that the earth, tailings, concentrates, or products containing gold were produced from and taken out of the ground comprised in the lease or claim of which the seller is the registered holder or tributer, or for the treatment of which he holds a licence from the Crown under any Act relating to mines, and which lease or claim is sufficiently described in the contract.
- (2.) Such buyer shall keep a "Gold Register Book," as prescribed by this Act, and in respect of every such purchase make the entries and observe the provisions prescribed by this Act in respect of the said book as if he were a licensed gold-buyer.

Gold-buyers.

Gold-bu era

5 No person shall buy any gold unless he is the holder of a licence as a gold-buyer.

Provisions as to lewellers and other goldreanufacturers. 6—(1.) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, any manufacturer of jewellery or other manufacturer of gold may without a licence buy, from His Majesty's Mint or any bank, gold for his own manufacturing purposes in the ordinary course of his business.

(2.) Every manufacturer of jewellery or other manufacturer of A.D. 1909. gold who buys gold shall keep a book, to be called a "Gold Register Book," in the form of the First Schedule to this Act, and shall comply with the provisions of Sections Fourteen and Fifteen of this Act as if expressly named therein, and make the entries and observe the provisions prescribed by the said sections.

Applications for Licences or Renewals of Licences.

- 7 Any person or bank desiring to obtain a licence, or renewal of a Application for licence, as a gold-buyer shall make application therefor in such form as licence. may be prescribed to the Minister.
- 8 The Minister may in his discretion, and on payment of a fee of Minister may Five Shillings therefor, grant to any person (not being a bank) applying grant licence. for a gold-buyer's licence, in such form as may be prescribed, a licence authorising the applicant to buy gold.

9—(1.) The Minister may in his discretion grant to any bank— 1. A gold-buyer's licence on the payment therefor of the fee of banking com-Five Shillings, for the principal office of such bank, and of a fee of Five Shillings for each licence required for any

branch of such bank: or

Licences to

II. On a like payment a general gold-buyer's licence, accompanied by a list showing each branch to which the licence shall apply.

(2.) Each such general licence shall be granted in the form in the Second Schedule to this Act, or in such form as may be prescribed, and Second Schedule. shall be available for use at every branch named therein

- (3.) The manager, accountant, or officer in charge for the time being at the head office and at every branch named of such bank shall be deemed to be a licensee within the meaning of this Act.
- (4.) Should it be desired to add an additional branch or branches to such licence during its currency, it may be done on application, in writing, and payment of a fee of Five Shillings for every branch so added.
- 10 No licence shall be issued to any person who holds any licence Certain persons under any Act regulating the sale of intoxicating liquor, nor to any not to be licensed. manufacturer of jewellery or other manufacturer of gold, nor to any hawker.

11 A renewal of a licence for a further period of Twelve months Renewal of from the expiration of the original licence or of the last renewal licence. (as the case may be) may be issued by the Minister, if the licensee applies for such renewal not more than One month and not less than Seven days before its expiration, and if the Minister is satisfied that the licensee is a fit person to continue to hold such licence.

A.D. 1909.

Continuance of licence.

12 Every licence granted or renewed under the provisions of this Act shall, unless sooner revoked, be in force until the last day of *December* in the year for which the same is granted or renewed, and no longer.

Revocation of Licences.

Revocation of licence.

13 The Minister may in his discretion revoke any licence, and thereupon the holder of the licence shall deliver up the licence to the Minister. If any licensee fails or omits to deliver up his licence upon the same being revoked, he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Regulation of Licensed Gold-buyers.

Gold Register Books. Supervision of sales and entries thereof. First Schedule. 14—(1.) A Gold Register Book, in the form in the First Schedule to this Act, or as may be prescribed, shall be kept at the place of business of every licensed gold-buyer, and at the head office and at every branch of a bank holding a licence.

(2.) Every licensed person (other than a bank), and in the case of a bank the manager, accountant, or officer in charge for the time being of the head office or branch, as the case may be, shall personally conduct every transaction relating to the purchase or sale of gold, and shall after every purchase or sale has been effected, or any gold received into his custody or possession, forthwith record in such Gold Register Book the prescribed particulars of the transaction, and have such entries signed as directed in the said schedule, or as may be prescribed.

Regulations to be observed by licensees.

Books to be kept showing gold received.

First Schedule.

15 Every licensed gold-buyer shall—

I. Keep a book or books, fairly made out, in the form set forth in the First Schedule hereto, and shall enter therein an account of all such gold as he may from time to time become possessed of, stating in respect thereof the day and hour upon, and at which, and the person by or through whom, and the person from whom, he purchased or received the same, adding a true description of such lastmentioned person's business and precise place of abode, and post to the Secretary for Mines, within Seven days after the close of each month, a copy certified by him as correct of all entries made pursuant to this or the next following paragraph in such book during the said month. If he does not, he shall on summary conviction incur for the First offence a penalty not exceeding Twenty Pounds, and for every subsequent offence a penalty not less than Two Pounds nor exceeding Fifty Pounds, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding Six months:

Penalty.

II. Enter in such book an account of all such gold as he may from time to time sell or dispose of, stating in respect of each entry the day upon which, and the name of the person by or through whom, and the person to whom, he sold or

Book to show how gold disposed of.

9° EDWARDI VII. No. 48.



Gold.

disposed of the same, adding a true description of such A.D. 1909. lastmentioned person's business and precise place of If he does not, he shall on summary conviction incur for the first offence a penalty of not exceeding Twenty Pounds, and for every subsequent offence a penalty not Penalty. less than Two Pounds nor exceeding Fifty Pounds, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding Six months:

III. Produce to any officer of the police force of or above the rank Production of of sergeant, or any member of the police force generally licence-books in authorised, in writing, by such an officer as aforesaid, whenever thereto requested, his licence and the book or books required to be kept as aforesaid, and any gold purchased or received by him then in his possession; and such book or books or gold shall be deemed to be in the possession of such dealer when they are placed in any house, outhouse, yard, garden, or place occupied by him, or shall have been removed with his knowledge and permission to any other place without a bona fide sale of such gold having been made by him:

certain cases.

IV. Without delay give notice to the officer or member of the Dealer to inform police force on duty at the police-station nearest to any police when gold place where he carries on business of any gold then in his supposed to be possession, or which shall thereafter come into his posses- into his possession. sion, answering the description of any gold described as having been stolen, embezzled, or fraudulently obtained, in or by any printed or written information given to him by any member of the police force:

stolen, &c., came

v. Keep all gold purchased or received by him, without changing Form of gold not the form in which it was when received or offered to him to be changed for for purchase, or receiving, and without disposing of the Five days. same in any way, for a period of Five days after such gold has been purchased:

VI. For any act or default contrary to any of the Three Penalty. immediately preceding paragraphs done or made by any gold-buyer, he shall, on summary conviction, incur a penalty of not more than Five Pounds, and for every subsequent offence a penalty of not less than One Pound nor more than Twenty Pounds, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding Three months.

16 Any entry in a book belonging to a licensee shall be deemed, Entries in goldunless the contrary is shown, to have been made by or with the buyer's book authority of such licensee.

deemed to have been made by him.

17 Every licensee who wilfully makes a false entry, and every Penalty for false person who causes a false entry to be made, in a "Gold Register entry." Book "shall be liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for any period not exceeding Six months or to a penalty of not less than Five Pounds nor exceeding One hundred Pounds.

A.D. 1909.

Purchase of gold.

- 18—(1.) No licensed gold-buyer shall buy smelted or retorted gold unless the seller thereof supplies to him a statement in writing, signed by him, showing where the gold was obtained from and from whom the smelter received it, and whether alluvial, or quartz, or manufactured gold.
- . (2.) No licensed gold-buyer shall pay for gold or wrought-gold purchased by him except by cheque or cash, or by placing the proceeds to the credit of the seller's account at his bank.

Gold-buyer, &c., may take declaration from seller.

- 19—(1.) A licensee may require any person tendering to him for sale any gold, or if such person is personally unknown to him shall require such person to make and subscribe a declaration, in such form and containing such particulars as may be prescribed, specifying the locality wherein is situated the mine, claim, or place from which such gold was obtained.
- (2.) Any person who knowingly, wilfully, and corruptly makes any false declaration before any licensee shall be deemed to be guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.
- (3.) Before taking any such declaration as aforesaid such licensee shall clearly explain to the person to whom such declaration is tendered the nature of the declaration, and the liability incurred by taking and subscribing a false declaration.
- (4.) Any licensee or employee of a licensee who divulges any matter contained in the declaration, except for the purposes of the administration of justice or for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty on unlicensed person pretending to be licensed, &c. 20 Any person, not being a licensed gold-buyer, who takes, uses, or exhibits the name or title of or pretends to be a licensed gold-buyer, or takes or uses any title or term or sign or symbol which may be construed to mean that he is qualified or is willing to buy gold, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty of not less than Two Pounds or more than One hundred Pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding One year.

Miscellaneous.

Gold not to be left at licensed house.

21 No person shall buy, receive, keep, or sell gold, or leave or deposit gold with any person on the premises of any holder of any licence under any Act regulating the sale of intoxicating liquor.

Gold-buyer not to have assaying appliances. 22 No licensed gold-buyer (except a bank) shall have or permit to be or remain on his premises, or have or use elsewhere, any crushing, smelting, or assaying appliances except a pestle and mortar.

No child under Fifteen to sell gold.

23 No child under Fifteen years of age shall sell gold, and any person who buys gold from any child apparently under the age of Fifteen years shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

24 In any proceedings against any person for acting as a gold- A.D. 1909. buyer, or carrying on the business of buying gold contrary to the provisions of this Act, such person shall be deemed to be unlicensed unless at the hearing of the case he produces his licence or proves to not producing the satisfaction of the magistrate or justices that he is a licensed gold-licence. buyer.

be unlicensed if

25—(1.) No person except—

1. A licensee: or

II. A mining company registered under "The Mining Companies Act, 1884," or "The Mining Companies (Foreign) 48 Viet. No. 16. Act"—

appliance for treating gold. 48 Vict. No. 15.

Registration of

shall have any appliance for treatment of gold or smelting of gold, whether in use or not, in his possession or under his control, or upon any premises used or occupied by him, unless his full name, address, and signature, and the particulars and situation of the appliance, are registered at the police-station nearest to his address, and he is in possession of a certificate of such registration signed by the member of the police force in charge of such police-station.

(2.) A duplicate of such certificate shall be sent by such member of the police force to the Commissioner of Police and to the inspector of mines for the district wherein the appliance is kept, and to the Secretary

- (3.) This section does not apply to schools of mines or to the stocks of vendors and manufacturers of mining appliances held in the ordinary course of trade and not used.
- 26 Where any matter or thing is by or pursuant to this Act Penalty for nondirected or forbidden to be done, and such matter or thing so directed performance of to be done remains undone, or such matter or thing so forbidden to be provisions of this done is done, in every such case every person offending against such direction or prohibition shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence against this Act.

27 Any person who offers gold for sale or for smelting or assaying, Person in or who has gold in his possession or control, or who has sold any gold, possession of gold or for whom any gold has been smelted or assayed, or who in any proceeding under this section states that he gave or entrusted, or is alleged to have given or entrusted, the gold to the defendant, may be required by a licensed gold-buyer or a gold-assayer to whom the gold is or was offered, or by whom the gold was bought or smelted or assayed, or any member of the police force or a justice, to satisfy him that such person came lawfully by the same, or that the same was obtained from the claim or works mentioned in the entry (if any) signed by him; and if he shall not so satisfy such gold-buyer, gold-assayer, or member, or justice, proceedings for an offence against this Act may be taken against such person upon the information of such gold-buyer, gold-assayer, or member, or by direction of such justice; and upon the hearing, unless such person satisfies the court that he honestly came by the same, he shall be convicted of an offence against this Act.

to account for

A.D. 1909.

Untrue statement by seller.

28 If any entry in a "Gold Register Book" signed by or on behalf of a seller is untrue or incomplete in any particular, or if the name by which any person named in the entry or signing the same is generally known is not disclosed therein, such seller or person, and the person (if any) for whom he acts, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Untrue statement

29 If any person signs on behalf of a seller, or as a witness, any by witness to sale. entry knowing or having reason to believe or suspect that the entry is untrue or incomplete in any particular, or that the name by which any person mentioned in the entry in a "Gold Register Book ' or signing the same is generally known is not disclosed therein, or if he was not requested by the seller to sign the seller's name on his behalf, such person shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Untrue entries by buyer or smelter.

30 If any licensee buys, sells, receives, or delivers, gold knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that any entry in a "Gold Register Book" is untrue or incomplete in any particular, or that the name by which any person mentioned in the entry or signing of the same is generally known is not disclosed therein, he and the person for whom he acts shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Untrue statements to the Minister.

31 If any notice or statement, or copy posted or sent or delivered to the Minister or the Secretary for Mines or member of the police force, or to the mint, or to any inspector of mines, or any public officer, is untrue or incomplete in any substantial particular, or if the name by which any person mentioned in or signing or delivering the notice or statement or copy is generally known is not disclosed therein, the person selling the gold, or posting, sending, or delivering the notice or copy or statement, and the person (if any) for whom he acts, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Penalty for offence against Act.

- **32**—(1.) Every person guilty of an offence against any of the provisions of this Act for which no punishment is expressly provided shall, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable, for such offence be liable on conviction in a summary way to any penalty not exceeding One hundred Pounds, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding Six months; and if a licensee, his licence shall, on a Second conviction, ipso facto, become void as if the same had been actually revoked.
- (2.) Gold in possession of the police or any informant which is the subject of a prosecution shall, on the conviction of the person charged, be given back to the owner if he is known; otherwise such gold is hereby declared to be forfeited to the State. When gold is so forfeited, there may be paid out of the proceeds thereof, if so ordered by the Minister, the cost and expenses of the prosecution and such sum or sums as he may award to any person affording any information or aid in the obtaining of the conviction,

- 33 Any inspector of mines or any member of the police torce, or A.D. 1903 any person thereto authorised by the Minister, may take proceedings against any licensed gold-buyer or any person for any contravention of Enforcement. this Act. In any proceedings no proof shall be required of any authority under this section.
- 34 The Governor may from time to time make regulations Regulations. prescribing—
 - 1. The form of licences, of applications for licences, and renewals of licences:
 - II. The notices to be given by applicants:
 - III. The books to be kept by a licensee, and the form of entries to be made therein:
 - iv. By whom such entries shall be signed or certified, and for the identification of any party to a transaction or person signing any entry:
 - v. The notification by licensees of the address of their place of business and of any change in such address:
 - vi. The notification by every licensee upon the outside of his place of business of his name and the nature of his business:
 - VII. The returns which shall be furnished by the licensee, the time and manner of furnishing such returns, and the persons or authorities to whom the same shall be furnished:
 - viii. The form of declaration required to be made by any person tendering to a licensee any gold for sale or otherwise:
 - 1x. Any alterations in the schedules to this Act which may be necessary or desirable:
- x. Anything authorised by this Act to be prescribed: and generally for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.
- 35 In any proceedings against any person licensed under this Act for Burden of proof. any failure to comply with any of the requirements thereof the burden of proof that such requirements have been complied with shall be on the defendant.

fully in possession.

36 Where a member of the police force makes information in Warrant to search writing on oath that he has reasonable cause to believe and does believe premises for that any person not being licensed so to do has bought gold, or that gold, &c., unlawany crushing, smelting, or assaying appliances are unlawfully in the possession or under the control of any person, a police magistrate may ssue his warrant to such member authorising him, with such assistance as may be necessary, to search any premises specified in such warrant, and to take possession of any such gold, or such crushing, smelting, or assaying appliances, and to apprehend any person not being so licensed, or any person in whose possession or under whose control such

A.D. 1909.

appliances may be found, and to take any such person before a justice to be dealt with according to law.

Accomplice.

37 No member of the police force or person, if such member or person is acting under instructions from any officer of police, shall be deemed to be an offender or accomplice in the commission of any offence against any of the provisions of this Act, although such member or person might but for this section have been deemed to be such an offender or accomplice.

Procedure. 19 Vict. No. 8. 38 All offences against the provisions of this Act or the regulations, and all penalties, forfeitures, costs, sums of money, and expenses under the provisions of this Act or the regulations, may, unless otherwise provided, be prosecuted and recovered in a summary way by and before a police magistrate or any Two or more justices in the mode prescribed by "The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act."

A.D. 1909.

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SCHEDULES.

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A.D. 1909.

9° EDWARDI VII. No. 48.

Gold.							
2.)							
LICENCE FOR A BANK.							
inister for Mines for the State of Tasman e under the provisions of "The Gold Anname of bank] carrying on business at and at the branches described on the bacycisions of the said Act, at the Head Offict day of December, 19							
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