

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND ACT.

Act No. 19, 1914.

An Act to constitute a general relief fund; to provide for its administration; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto. [Assented to, 25th August, 1914.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the "National Relief Fund Act, 1914." Short title.

2. (1) There is hereby constituted a board consisting Board. of the Colonial Secretary, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, and the Public Trustee and six other members to be appointed by the Governor.

(2) The said board shall be a body corporate under Corporate body. the name of the "National Relief Board of New South Wales," and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued. All courts, judges, and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of such seal, and shall presume that such seal, when affixed to any document, was properly so affixed.

(3) The Colonial Secretary shall be president of President. the board. In his absence the Lord Mayor shall act as president, and in the absence of the Colonial Secretary and the Lord Mayor, the Public Trustee shall act as president.

(4) Five members shall be a quorum of the board Quorum. for the exercise of its powers. At any meeting of the board, the president or the person acting as president shall have an original, and where the votes are equal, a casting vote. (5)

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(5) No act of the board shall be invalid by reason only that the number of members of the board was not complete at the time when such act was done, or by reason of any defect in the appointment of any such member.

(6) No member of the board shall be liable for any act of the board, but the board shall alone be liable.

(7) Any member of the board may resign and the Governor may appoint any person to fill any vacancy in the board.

(8) The Governor may revoke the appointment of any member.

(9) The members of the board shall receive no remuneration for their services.

Trustee.

3. The Public Trustee shall be the trustee of the fund to be constituted as hereinafter provided.

The fund.

4. All the real and personal property, including moneys, and securities for moneys, forming the funds specified in the Schedule hereto shall, as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act, be vested by proper transfers and assurances in the trustee and form one fund to be called the "National Relief Fund of New South Wales," hereinafter referred to as "the fund."

Board may call for subscriptions, &c.

5. The board is hereby empowered to call for subscriptions to the fund, and may accept any gift or bequest whatsoever to the fund.

Any person who solicits subscriptions to the fund unless authorised to do so by the board shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Investments.

6. The trustee shall invest the moneys in the fund in securities of the Government of New South Wales or of the Commonwealth of Australia, or on deposit with the Colonial Treasurer, or with any bank doing the Government business, and may vary or realise any such investment: Provided that it shall not be necessary for the trustee to realise any securities transferred or assured to him in pursuance of section four.

Application of moneys.

7. (1) The moneys at credit of the fund shall, in the sole discretion of the board, be expended for the relief of persons injured in war or public disasters or those dependent on persons killed or injured in war or public disasters.

The

The board shall be the sole judge as to what constitutes a public disaster for the purposes of this section, and its determination in that matter shall be conclusive: Provided that the board may, in its discretion, continue in whole or in part, and subject to such conditions as it may think fit to impose, any allowances which at the commencement of this Act were made out of the funds specified in the Schedule hereto.

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(2) Where any subscription is donated for any specific purpose the board shall, as far as practicable, allocate that subscription to that purpose.

8. The board shall, in the month of January in each year, prepare and send to the Colonial Treasurer an account of the moneys received and expended by it during the last preceding year, and a statement of the moneys and securities in its possession on the thirty-first day of December then last preceding. Such account and statement shall be audited by the Auditor-General, and laid before both Houses of Parliament without delay.

Account to
be rendered.

9. (1) The board may make by-laws—

By-laws.

- (a) regulating the making of claims for allowances under this Act;
- (b) prescribing the amounts of such allowances, and the persons to whom they may be paid;
- (c) regulating the allotting and paying of such allowances; and
- (d) prescribing the procedure at meetings of the board; and
- (e) generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Such by-laws shall—

- (i) be published in the Gazette;
- (ii) take effect from the date of publication, or from a later date to be specified in such by-laws; and
- (iii) be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after publication, if Parliament is in session, and, if not, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next session. If either House of Parliament passes

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passes a resolution at any time within fifteen sitting days after such by-laws have been laid before such House disallowing any by-law, such by-law shall thereupon cease to have effect.

SCHEDULE.

The Patriotic Fund.

The New South Wales Public Disaster Relief Fund.

The Bulli Colliery Disaster Fund.

The Education Department Relief Fund.

And any other Fund which the Governor may by proclamation on resolution of both Houses of Parliament add to the Schedule.