



SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE

OF
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1884.

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WELLINGTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1884.

Sections of "Public Health Act, 1876," defining Power and Duties of Local Boards of Health.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 11th August, 1884.

THE attention of the Local Boards of Health throughout the colony is drawn to the following provisions of "The Public Health Act, 1876."

The definition of Local Boards of Health is, "the City or Borough Council, Town Board, Board of Wardens, or Commissioners, or other like body, howsoever denominated, of every city, town, and borough, and the Council, Road Board, Board of Wardens, Commissioners, or Trustees of every road district or highway district or other like body howsoever denominated, now or hereafter created, elected, constituted, or appointed under any Act of the General Assembly, or any Act or Ordinance of any Provincial Council, for the local government of such city, town, or borough, or road or highway district, and also such persons as may be appointed to be Local Boards as hereinafter provided."

The duties of Local Boards are set forth in the following sections:—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND HOSPITALS.

Provisions against Infection.

27. Where any Local Board is of opinion, on the certificate of its Medical Officer, or of any other legally-qualified medical practitioner, that the cleansing and disinfecting of any house or part thereof, and of any articles therein likely to retain infection, would tend to prevent or check infectious disease, it shall be the duty of such Board to give notice in writing to the owner or occupier of such house or part thereof, requiring him to cleanse and disinfect such house or part thereof and articles within a time specified in such notice.

If the person to whom notice is so given fails to comply therewith, he shall be liable to a penalty of not less than five shillings and not exceeding twenty shillings for every day during which he continues to make default; and the Local Board shall cause such house or part thereof and articles to be cleansed and disinfected, and may recover the expenses incurred from the owner or occupier in default in a summary manner.

Where the owner or occupier of any such house or part thereof is from poverty or otherwise unable, in the opinion of the Local Board, effectually to carry out the requirements of this section, the Board may, without enforcing such requirements

on such owner or occupier, cleanse and disinfect such house or part thereof and articles, and defray the expenses thereof.

28. When a householder knows that a person within the house occupied by him is taken sick of small-pox, cholera, or any other highly infectious disease dangerous to the people, he shall immediately give notice thereof to the Local Board of the district in which he dwells. If he refuses or neglects to give such notice, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding ten pounds. It shall be the duty of the medical practitioner in attendance on such case to state to the householder, as early as possible, the infectious nature of such disease.

29. Any Local Board may do any of the following things:—

- (1.) Direct the destruction of any bedding, clothing, or other articles which have been exposed to infection from any dangerous infectious disorder, and may give compensation for the same;
- (2.) Provide a proper place, with all necessary apparatus and attendance, for the disinfection of bedding, clothing, or other articles which have become infected, and may cause any articles brought for disinfection to be disinfected free of charge;
- (3.) Provide and maintain a carriage or carriages suitable for the conveyance of persons suffering under any infectious disorder, and may pay the expenses of conveying therein any person so suffering to a hospital or other place of destination.

30. Where any suitable hospital or place for the reception of the sick is provided within the district of a Local Board, or within a convenient distance of such district, any person who is suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder, and is without proper lodging or accommodation, or lodged in a room occupied by more than one family, or is on board any ship or vessel, may, on a certificate signed by a legally-qualified medical practitioner, and with the consent of the superintending body of such hospital or place, be removed, by order of any Resident Magistrate, to such hospital or place at the cost of the Local Board.

An order under this section may be addressed to such constable or officer of the Local Board as the Resident Magistrate making the same may think expedient; and any person who willingly disobeys or obstructs the execution of such order shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

31. Any person who—

- (1.) While suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder wilfully exposes himself, without proper precau-

tions against spreading the said disorder, in any street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance, or enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner, conductor, or driver thereof that he is so suffering; or

- (2.) Being in charge of any person so suffering, so exposes such sufferer; or
- (3.) Gives, lends, sells, or transmits or exposes, without previous disinfection, any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things which have been exposed to infection from any such disorder,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds; and a person who, while suffering from any such disorder, enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver that he is so suffering, shall in addition be ordered by the Court to pay such owner and driver the amount of any loss and expense they may incur in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act with respect to disinfection of the conveyance:

But no proceedings under this section shall be taken against persons transmitting with proper precautions any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things for the purpose of having the same disinfected.

32. Every owner or driver of a public conveyance shall immediately provide for the disinfection of such conveyance after it has to his knowledge conveyed any person suffering from a dangerous infectious disorder.

If he fails to do so, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds; but no such owner or driver shall be required to convey any person so suffering until he has been paid a sum sufficient to cover any loss or expense incurred by him in carrying into effect the provisions of this section.

33. Any person who knowingly lets for hire any house, room, or part of a house in which any person has been suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder, without having such house, room, or part of a house, and all articles therein liable to retain infection, disinfected to the satisfaction of a legally-qualified medical practitioner, as testified by a certificate signed by him, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.

For the purposes of this section, the keeper of an inn shall be deemed to let for hire part of a house to any person admitted as a guest into such inn.

34. Any person letting for hire, or showing for the purpose of letting for hire, any house or part of a house, who, on being questioned by any person negotiating for the hire of such house or part of a house as to the fact of there being, or within six weeks previously having been, therein any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder, knowingly makes a false answer to such question, shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding one month.

Hospitals.

35. Any Local Board may provide for the use of the inhabitants of its district hospitals or temporary places for the reception of the sick, and for that purpose may—

- Itself build such hospitals or places of reception; or
- Contract for the use of any such hospital or part of a hospital or place of reception; or
- Enter into any agreement with any person having the management of any hospital for the reception of the sick inhabitants of its district, on payment of such annual or other sum as may be agreed on.

Two or more Local Boards may combine in providing a common hospital.

36. Any expenses incurred by a Local Board in maintaining in a hospital, or in a temporary place for the reception

of the sick (whether or not belonging to such Board), a patient who is not a pauper, shall be deemed to be a debt due from such patient to the Local Board, and may be recovered from him at any time within six months after his discharge from such hospital or place of reception, or from his estate in the event of his dying in such hospital or place.

37. Any Local Board may, with the sanction of the Central Board, itself provide or contract with any person to provide a temporary supply of medicine and medical assistance for the poorer inhabitants of its district.

Mortuaries, &c.

38. Any Local Board may, and, if required by the Central Board shall, provide and fit up a proper place for the reception of dead bodies before interment (in this Part of this Act called a mortuary), and may make by-laws with respect to the management and charges for use of the same; it may also provide for the decent and economical interment, at charges to be fixed by such by-laws, of any dead body which may be received into a mortuary.

39. Where the body of one who has died of any infectious disease is retained in a room in which persons live or sleep, or any dead body which is in such a state as to endanger the health of the inmates of the same house or room is retained in such house or room, any Justice may, on a certificate signed by a legally-qualified medical practitioner, order the body to be removed, at the cost of the Local Board, to any mortuary provided by such Board, and direct the same to be buried within a time to be limited in such order; and unless the friends or relations of the deceased undertake to bury the body within the time so limited, and do bury the same, it shall be the duty of the Board to cause such body to be buried; but any expense so incurred may be recovered by the Board in a summary manner from any person legally liable to pay the expense of such burial.

Any person obstructing the execution of an order made by a Justice under this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

40. Any Local Board may provide and maintain a proper place (otherwise than at a mortuary) for the reception of dead bodies during the time required to conduct any post-mortem examination ordered by a Coroner or other constituted authority, and may make regulations with respect to the management of such place.

Where any such place has been provided, a Coroner or other constituted authority may order the removal of the body to and from such place for carrying out such post-mortem examination, such costs of removal to be paid in the same manner and out of the same fund as the costs and fees for post-mortem examinations when ordered by the Coroner.

EDWD. T. CONOLLY,
(in the absence of the Colonial Secretary.)

Supply of Vaccine Lymph required.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 11th August, 1884.

THE Government are desirous of obtaining a supply of pure vaccine lymph from the calf, delivered at various centres; and invite offers from duly-qualified medical gentlemen, stating the quantities in which they are prepared to supply the lymph, and the price: the quality to be guaranteed.

G. S. COOPER,
Under-Secretary.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUK, Govt. Printer, Wellington.