New Zealand.



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1893, No. 11.

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Short Title.

Interpretation.

Notes to be a first

charge on assets of

bank.

An Acr to make Bank-notes a First Charge on Bank Assets, and to temporarily enable the Governor to declare Bank-notes to be a Legal Tender, and to provide for the Retirement of

the same during a Limited Time and under Special Circum-[2nd September, 1893. BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Bank-note Issue Act, 1893."

2. In this Act the word "bank" means any corporation or incorporated company carrying on within the colony the business of banking only.

PART I.

PERMANENT ENACTMENT .- BANK-NOTES.

3. After the passing of this Act all notes payable on demand heretofore, or hereafter to be, issued, circulated, or reissued in the colony by any bank under authority of this or any other Act of this colony in that behalf, shall, to the amount of the issue authorised, be a first charge on all the assets and property of that bank being assets for the payment of debts or other obligations contracted or entered upon, or due and payable in the colony; and shall be payable in gold only at the office of the bank at the place of issue of the said notes respectively, anything contained in any other Act notwithstanding.

PART II.

TEMPORARY ENACTMENTS .- PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR.

4. Save as provided by section seven, the enactments in Part II. of this Act shall have force for the period of twelve months only from

Period during which this Part is to remain in force.

the passing thereof, and if at the end of that period Parliament be not in session, then until the commencement of the then next session of Parliament, and for two months thereafter, but no longer.

5. The Governor in Council may from time to time, as he thinks Power of the fit, by Proclamation under his hand, and published in the Gazette, and Governor to make notes a legal tender. in at least three newspapers in the colony, declare that the notes payable on demand by any bank therein named, and then or thereafter to be issued, circulated, or reissued within the said colony under any lawful authority in that behalf, shall, during the period limited by the Proclamation, be everywhere within the said colony a good and legal tender of money to the amount therein expressed to be payable:

Provided that no Proclamation shall be made unless the Governor in Council is satisfied that as between the bank and its creditors its assets exceed its liabilities by at least the sum of the paid-up capital

and the reserved profits:

Provided further that the bank shall pay all such notes of its own issue in gold on presentation at the office of the bank at the place of issue of the said notes respectively after the expiration of the period limited by any original Proclamation under this section, or by successive Proclamations thereunder if more than one; and the Governor in Council may require adequate security for the performance of this condition:

Provided also that no Proclamation made under the authority of this section shall have force or effect beyond the time during which

Part II. of this Act continues and remains in force.

6. Upon publication in the Gazette as aforesaid, any Proclamation to tion made under this Act shall, to the extent and during the period of law. limited by the Proclamation or by this Act, have the force of law, notwithstanding any provision in any Act, charter, or document whatever.

7. At any time within six months after the expiration of the Colonial Treasurer period limited by any original Proclamation under section five, or by shall pay note on presentation. successive Proclamations thereunder if there have been more than one, the Colonial Treasurer, on being satisfied that a bank-note covered by any such Proclamation has been duly presented for payment at the bank issuing the same, and has not been paid, shall, without further appropriation than this Act, pay the same in gold to any bona fide holder, not being a bank, who may present the same for payment at the Treasury.

8. Upon the request of the Colonial Treasurer, the managing Managers and director, manager, or accountant of any bank shall make full and inquiries made by true answers to such written inquiries concerning the business, and Governor in Council. the assets and liabilities, of the bank as the Colonial Treasurer thinks fit to make for the purpose of the exercise of the discretion conferred on the Governor in Council by section five of this Act, and shall

verify the same by his statutory declaration.