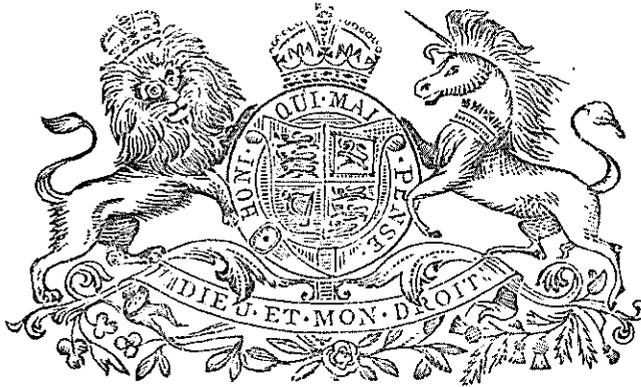


WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



ANNO SEPTIMO

GEORGII QUINTI REGIS,
XXVI.

No. 6 of 1917.

AN ACT to amend the Friendly Societies Act, 1894, and its amendments.

[Assented to 23rd March, 1917.]

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 Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Friendly Societies Act Amendment Act, 1917*, and shall be read as one with the Friendly Societies Act, 1894 (hereinafter called the *Principal Act*). Short title.

2. The following paragraphs are hereby added to subsection one of section fifteen of the principal Act, after paragraph (d) thereof:— Amendment of section 15 (1).

- “(d₁) In the purchase in fee simple of land in Western Australia ;
- (d₂) In any of the Parliamentary stocks or Public funds or Government securities of the Commonwealth of Australia.”

3. The following section is hereby inserted after section fifteen of the principal Act, that is to say:— Insertion of new section after section 15.

15a. (1) The trustees, with the consent of the committee of management or of a majority of the members of a society or branch, as the case may be, present and entitled to vote in general meeting, may — Power to dispose of land held by way of investment

- (a) Sell any land held by way of investment for the Society or Branch, and transfer or otherwise assure the same to a purchaser freed and absolutely discharged from any trusts in favour of the society or branch to which the said land may be subject ;
- (b) Mortgage such lands to secure moneys lawfully borrowed, and for the purpose of such security assure such lands to the mortgagee and his assigns freed and discharged from any such trusts as aforesaid ;
- (c) Notwithstanding any such trusts, lease any such lands for any term with or without right of renewal, and either by way of building lease or otherwise and subject to such covenants, conditions, and agreements as they may think fit ;

Provided that no such consent as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been duly obtained unless it is obtained at a meeting of the committee or of the society or branch, as the case may be, of which notice specifying the intention to move for such consent has been given as provided in rules of the society or branch made under this Act.

(2) " Land held by way of investment " shall include any land vested in trustees for any society or branch except such land as shall have been acquired from the Crown by way of gift or free grant or without any pecuniary consideration.

(3) The provisions of the Public Institutions and Friendly Societies Lands Improvement Act, 1892, and of subsection three of section fifteen of this Act shall not apply to or in respect of land held by way of investment.

(4) Subject to the last preceding subsection, nothing in this section shall affect the provisions of section fifteen of this Act.

(5) The provisions of this section shall apply to and in respect of any land acquired from any person by way of gift or devise or without pecuniary consideration, if such land has been acquired or is held by the society or branch free from any trusts or restrictions (except a trust for the general purposes of the society or branch) which are inconsistent with the exercise of the powers conferred by this section.

4. The following section is hereby inserted after section seventeen of the principal Act, that is to say:—

17a. (1) The Registrar may—

- (a) Require the production for inspection of the books of any society or branch ;

Insertion of new section after section 17.

Powers of Registrar for the investigation of the affairs of a society or branch.

- (b) Make such inspection and examination of the books as he may deem necessary ;
- (c) Require from the manager or any officer of any bank in which any funds of any society or branch are deposited or invested a written statement of the amount of such deposit or investment, and any other particulars relating thereto which he may consider necessary ;
- (d) Put such questions as he may consider expedient to any officer, member, agent, or servant of a society or branch relating to its business and affairs ;
- (e) Appoint any inspector to examine into and report to him on the business and affairs of any society or branch.

Provided that before requiring the production of the books of a branch of a society, the Registrar shall give notice of his intention so to do to the Secretary of the Society.

(2) Any inspector appointed by the Registrar under this section shall have and may exercise all the powers and authorities of the Registrar under this section (except the power to appoint an inspector) subject to such limitations (if any) as the Registrar may think fit to impose.

(3) Every person who neglects or refuses to comply with any requisition made by the Registrar or an inspector under this section shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

(4) Every person to whom any question is put by the Registrar or an Inspector under this section shall answer such question truthfully and completely to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

5. Section thirty-two of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following proviso:—

Amendment of section 32.

Provided that the Committee of Management of any society or branch may, during the continuance of the present war, suspend or modify in such manner as they may deem just or expedient the benefits of any member who is on active service in the naval or military forces of the Crown, but no such suspension or modification shall have effect after the end of the said war.

6. Subsection two of section three of the Friendly Societies Act Amendment Act, 1914, is hereby amended by the addition of the following words:—

Amendment of section 3 of Amending Act of 1914.

“subject to any suspension or modification of such

benefits which the committee may from time to time, with the approval of the Registrar, deem just or expedient.”

Amendment of
section 12.

7. Section twelve of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to paragraph (b) of subsection (1) the following words :—

Provided that on the death or resignation of a trustee the Committee of Management (by whatever name called) may appoint some other person as trustee in his place, but every such appointment shall be subject to confirmation at the next general meeting of the society.

Citation and
reprint of
principal Act and
amendments.

8. The principal Act and the amendments thereof inclusive of this Act may be cited together as the *Friendly Societies Act, 1894–1917*, and all copies of the principal Act hereafter printed by the Government Printer shall be printed as altered by such amendments, under the supervision of the Clerk of Parliaments, and all necessary references to the amending Acts shall be made in the margin. In any such reprint the short title shall be altered to the *Friendly Societies Act, 1894–1917*.