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COAL MINES.

THE COAL MINES (COMMITTEES OF INVESTIGATION) RULES, 1938, DATED AUGUST 8, 1938, MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRADE UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE COAL MINES ACT, 1930 (20 & 21 GEO. 5. C. 34) AS AMENDED BY THE COAL ACT, 1938 (1 & 2 GEO. 6. C. 52).

The Board of Trade, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by sub-section (3c) of Section 5 of the Coal Mines Act, 1930 (as amended by the Coal Act, 1938) hereby make the following Rules:—

Short Title and Commencement.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Coal Mines (Committees of Investigation) Rules, 1938.

Interpretation.

2.—(i) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires—

“The Act” means the Coal Mines Act, 1930 (as amended by the Coal Act, 1938);

“The Board” means the Board of Trade;

“The Committee” means the National Committee of Investigation, or the Committee of Investigation for any district, or in relation to a complaint with respect to the operation of any district scheme the Committee of Investigation charged with the duty of investigating that complaint, as the case may be;

“The Scheme” means the Central Scheme or the District Scheme (as the case may require) for the time being in force under Part I of the Act, in relation to which the Committee is constituted.

(ii) The Interpretation Act, 1889 (52-3 V. c. 63) applies to the interpretation of these Rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Meetings.

3. The Committee shall hold such ordinary or special meetings as may be necessary for the transaction of business, and shall hold their ordinary meetings on such days and at such hours as they may determine.

Special Meetings.

4. A special meeting of the Committee shall be held whenever any member of the Committee shall by notice in writing to the Secretary thereof so require. The time appointed for the special meeting shall be not less than three clear days later than the date of such notice and such notice shall include particulars of the business for which the special meeting is required.

Notice of Meetings.

5. Not less than three clear days before any ordinary meeting of the Committee, and as early as possible before any special meeting

thereof, the Secretary shall send to each member of the Committee a notice in writing specifying the time and place of the meeting and the items of business to be considered.

Quorum.

6.—(i) Six members in the case of the National Committee of Investigation and four members in the case of a Committee of Investigation for any district shall respectively form a quorum.

(ii) If within half-an-hour from the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned until such time as the Chairman may appoint, not being less than three nor more than seven days after the time originally appointed for such meeting, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half-an-hour from the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall be a quorum.

Voting.

7. Every question at any meeting of the Committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting on the question, and in the case of an equal division of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Voting shall be by a show of hands.

Minutes.

8.—(i) The Committee shall cause minutes of their proceedings to be kept in a Minute Book, and such minutes shall be signed by the Chairman at the Meeting at which they are approved as correct. The Committee shall also cause a record to be kept showing the names of the members present at each meeting. The Minute Book and record of attendance shall be open to inspection when required by any officer of the Board.

(ii) Unless and until the contrary is proved, every meeting of the Committee in respect of the proceedings whereof a minute has been made in accordance with the provisions of these Rules shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held, and all the members present at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly qualified.

Investigation of Complaints.

9.—(i) The Committee shall require every complaint made to them with regard to the operation of the Scheme to be stated by the complainant in writing.

(ii) Upon receipt of any complaint (not being a complaint which the Committee is precluded under the Act from investigating) the Committee shall as soon as possible inform the persons concerned of the returns accounts or other information, with which they require to be furnished and of the manner in which such information should be given, and shall hold such meeting or meetings and do all such other things as may be necessary for the purpose of investigating the complaint, and shall make without delay any report or representations in relation thereto which it may be the duty of the Committee to make under the provisions of the Act.

(iii) The Committee may hear such persons with regard to a complaint as they think fit.