

Mr. Payne.

DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the Purpose of doing away with Compulsory Attendance at Military Drill-sheds or Encampments, or at any Branch or Feature of the Military Service. Title.

5 1. This Act may be cited as the Defence Act Amendment Act, 1912. Short Title.

2. Notwithstanding anything in the Defence Act, 1908, or any of its amendments to the contrary, no resident of the Dominion of New Zealand or its dependencies shall be compelled to attend military drill-sheds, encampments, or any branch of military service for the purpose of receiving military instruction, or for any other purpose. Drill attendance not compulsory.

3. A citizen army of sharpshooters shall be raised by granting free access to rifle ranges, free ammunition, and free railway passes, where necessary, to all residents of the Dominion without restriction as to age. Citizen army of sharpshooters.

4. For the purpose of section *three* hereof the Department of Defence shall furnish each resident applying therefor with a modern and serviceable rifle, and such rifle shall remain the property of such resident so long as he furnishes evidence of shooting on a Government range not less than ten times in each year, and firing not less than thirty cartridges on each occasion at ranges to be decided upon by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces from time to time. The rifles furnished under the provisions of this section may be used for sporting purposes, provided they are kept in good order and condition. Department of Defence to supply rifles.

5. Ample provision shall be made for rifle ranges situated at convenient distances from centres of population, and permanent markers shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces for the purpose of recording the firing scores of each individual volunteering to practice rifle shooting under the conditions of section *three* hereof; and such markers shall be provided Rifle ranges and markers to be provided.

with duplicate-form record-books, the prefoil of which shall be duly filled in with the firer's name and address and the result of his firing at the different ranges, such prefoil to serve as a certificate of attendance for the purpose of establishing a resident's claim to retain his rifle under section *four* hereof, and such certificate shall be handed to each firer on each occasion of his attendance on the Government rifle range. 5

Act not to apply to members of Permanent Force.

6. This Act shall not apply to members of the Permanent Force who have become members of this branch of the service by volunteering for service in that capacity. 10

Annual rifle meetings and prize-money.

7. Annual rifle meetings shall be held at places arranged, at the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, and such prize-money allotted for firing-results as may be arranged by such Commander.

Field training.

8. Accommodation shall be provided for such persons as may annually volunteer to undergo field training for not less than seven days, and no person shall shoot for prize-money on the rifle ranges unless he does so volunteer to undergo field training for at least seven days. 15