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Mr. Seddon.

GOLD DUTIES ABOLITION.

ANALYSIS.

Title.
Preamble.
1. Short Title.

2. Export duties on gold reduced and abolished.
3. "Mines Act, 1877," incorporated.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to abolish Duties on Gold, and for other Purposes.

Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the duties upon gold should be reduced and ultimately abolished:

Preamble.

5 BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Gold Duties Abolition Act, 1883," and it shall come into operation at such time and in such mining districts as the Governor shall by Proclamation decide, subject, however, to the following conditions:—

15 (1.) That a petition *in favour thereof* is presented to the Governor from not less than one-third of the holders of miners' rights residing in and mining within such mining district, *praying the Governor to bring this Act into operation within such mining district.*

20 ~~(2.) That such petition is publicly advertised in some newspaper circulating in the said mining district once in each of the four weeks immediately preceding the presentation of such petition.~~

New subsection.

25 (2.) That public notice shall be advertised in some newspaper circulating in the mining district proposed to be proclaimed once at least in each of four weeks immediately preceding the presentation of any petition, signed by a Resident Magistrate, stating that a petition duly signed as aforesaid is to be presented.

30 (3.) That the ~~local bodies interested in and~~ *counties and boroughs* receiving the revenues derived from the duties upon gold *in any mining district from which a petition is presented* pass resolutions, and forward the same to the Governor, praying that this Act may be brought into force. ~~in their respective districts.~~

Export duties on
gold reduced and
abolished.

2. Instead of the duties of Customs upon gold previous to exportation from New Zealand now leviable and payable under any Act or Acts imposing such duties respectively, there shall, on and after this Act is brought into force in any mining district, be levied, collected, and paid at the Customs unto her Majesty, her heirs and successors, the following duty, that is to say: Upon every ounce troy weight of gold of the fineness of twenty carats and upwards, and so in proportion for any less quantity than one ounce (of such fineness as aforesaid), one shilling, and such sum shall be levied only for a period of twelve months, after which date the duty upon gold shall altogether cease. The term "gold" in this Act means and includes gold in its natural state, or any substance containing gold, gold dust, and all other gold, whether wrought or unwrought, except coined gold issued from the Mint at London, or from either of the branches thereof in Australia, or of any Foreign State; articles of plate, jewellery, or ornaments actually worn upon the person, or made elsewhere in the colony.

New clause.

"Mines Act, 1877,"
incorporated.

3. This Act shall be read together with "The Mines Act, 1877."