

Mr. Brown.

NATURALIZED SUBJECTS' FRANCHISE.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED.

AN ACT to regulate the Exercise of certain Franchises by certain Naturalized British Subjects and other Persons, and for that Purpose to amend certain Acts relating to Parliamentary Elections and Elections for Local-government Areas, and to Justices of the Peace, Coroners, Licensing Magistrates, and Jurors; and for Purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto. Title.

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

1. (1.) This Act may be cited as the Naturalized Subjects' Franchise Act, 1917, and shall take effect during the continuance of the present war between His Majesty and any of His Majesty's enemies, and for a period of six months after the conclusion of the war. Short Title and duration.

(2.) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Naturalized British subject of enemy origin" means a naturalized male or female British subject who at the time of his or her naturalization was a subject of a country with which the British Empire is at war. Definition.

2. A naturalized British subject of enemy origin shall be incapable of being elected to or sitting or voting in— Naturalized British subjects of enemy origin incapable of holding certain positions.

(a.) The Legislative Council;

(b.) The House of Representatives;

(c.) The Council of any local authority;

or of officiating as a Justice of the Peace, a Coroner, a member of a Licensing Committee, or as a juror, or of obtaining a license under the Licensing Act, 1908, or of being granted a renewal of an existing license under that Act.

Names on rolls.

3. A naturalized British subject of enemy origin shall not be qualified to have his name entered or retained on any electoral roll compiled under the Legislature Act, 1908, or under any Act relating to local government.

Aliens voting.

4. (1.) A naturalized British subject of enemy origin shall not vote at an election under the Legislature Act, 1908, or under any Act relating to local government. 5

(2.) If any such person votes at any such election or referendum he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *one hundred* pounds.

Powers and duties of presiding officers to put questions to voters.

5. (1.) At any poll taken under the Legislature Act, 1908, or any Act relating to local government, the presiding officer shall put to any person claiming to vote bearing a name suggesting that he is an alien of enemy origin all or any of the following questions:— 10

(a.) Are you a subject of any of the countries (naming them) with which Great Britain is at war? 15

(b.) Are you a naturalized British subject?

(c.) What was your nationality immediately before the grant of your certificate of naturalization; or (in the case of a wife or child of a naturalized British subject of enemy origin) what was your nationality at the time of naturalization? 20

(2.) The presiding officer may require the production of any certificate of naturalization as a condition to admitting the said person to vote, or may dispense with such production.

(3.) If any person refuses to answer fully any question put to him as aforesaid, or by his answer shows that he is not entitled to have his name on the roll or to vote, his claim to vote shall be rejected. 25

Penalties.

6. If any person to whom a question is put in pursuance of this Act wilfully makes a false answer to the same or to any part thereof, he shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding *six* months, or to a fine not exceeding *one hundred* pounds, or to both imprisonment and fine. 30

Natural-born British subject defined.

7. A natural-born British subject shall be a person whose father was at the time of such person's birth a British subject. 35

Conditions under which naturalization granted.

8. Naturalization in future shall be granted only on the following conditions:—

(a.) Seven years' residence:

(b.) Twelve months' additional qualifying-period:

(c.) Full disclosure of previous history and business: 40

(d.) Public notice of intention to apply, including advertisement in local newspapers:

(e.) Character to be vouched for by four natural-born British subjects of recognized standing:

(f.) Renunciation of allegiance to the country of previous nationality: 45

(g.) Evidence of good character, adequate knowledge of the English language, and intention to reside in British dominions:

(h.) Naturalization revoked if the holder resides for more than five years outside the King's dominions: 50

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(i.) No naturalized person to be a member of either Legislature, *et cetera*, become a pilot or officer in a British ship (except under license), nor change his name without permission from the Minister of Internal Affairs.

5 9. The Governor-General may make regulations to carry out Regulations.
the provisions of this Act, and in such regulations may impose
for any breach thereof a fine not exceeding *twenty* pounds.