

Hon. Mr. Fisher.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS RECIPROCITY.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Ratification of agreement set out in Schedule.</p> <p>3. Annual statement to be submitted to Parliament. Certified copy to be sent to Minister in charge of Old-age Pensions in the Commonwealth of Australia.</p> | <p>4. Adjustment of accounts as between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>5. Payments out of Consolidated Fund.</p> <p>6. Commencement of Act. Schedule.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to ratify an Agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand providing for Reciprocity in the Matter of Old-age Pensions. Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Old-age Pensions Reciprocity Act, 1913. Short Title.

2. The agreement set out in the *Schedule* hereto (hereinafter referred to as the said agreement) is hereby ratified in so far as it relates to the payment of old-age pensions in New Zealand. Ratification of agreement set out in Schedule.

3. (1.) The Minister shall, within thirty days after the close of each year ending on the thirty-first day of March, cause to be prepared a statement setting forth the following particulars :— Annual statement to be submitted to Parliament.

(a.) The total number of persons in receipt of pensions in New Zealand during the said year pursuant to the said agreement ;

(b.) The total amount paid by way of pensions to such persons during the said year ; and

(c.) Such other particulars as may from time to time be prescribed.

(2.) The said statement shall forthwith be laid before Parliament, if sitting, or, if not sitting, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next ensuing session, and a copy thereof, certified as correct by writing under the hand of the Minister, shall forthwith be transmitted by him to the Minister for the time being in charge of old-age pensions in the Commonwealth of Australia. Certified copy to be sent to Minister in charge of Old-age Pensions in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Adjustment of accounts as between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

4. On the receipt from the last-mentioned Minister of a corresponding certified statement setting forth the total amount paid during the same period of twelve months by way of old-age pensions in the Commonwealth of Australia, pursuant to the said agreement, the following provisions shall apply:—

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(a.) The total amount paid in New Zealand, as aforesaid, shall be added to the total amount paid in the Commonwealth of Australia during the same period:

(b.) The amount so ascertained shall be deemed to have been payable by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand in the proportions specified in clause five of the said agreement, and the respective accounts shall be adjusted accordingly.

Payments out of Consolidated Fund.

5. All moneys payable under this Act, whether by way of pensions or by way of the adjustment of accounts pursuant to paragraph (b) of the *last preceding* section, shall from time to time be paid out of the Consolidated Fund without further appropriation than this Act.

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Commencement of Act.

6. This Act shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by the Governor by notice published in the *Gazette*, being not earlier than the date of the commencement of an Act to be passed by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia for the purpose of ratifying the said agreement in so far as it relates to the payment of old-age pensions in the said Commonwealth.

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Schedule.

SCHEDULE.

AGREEMENT made this fourteenth day of June, 1913, between the Right Honourable Andrew Fisher, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting for the Government of the said Commonwealth, of the one part, and Francis Marion Bates Fisher, the Minister of Customs of the Dominion of New Zealand, acting for the Government of the said Dominion, of the other part:

Witnesseth that, subject as hereinafter mentioned to the approval of the Parliaments of the said Commonwealth and Dominion respectively, it is hereby agreed as follows:—

1. There shall be reciprocity between the Commonwealth and the Dominion aforesaid on the terms set out in this agreement, with regard to the payment of old-age pensions.

2. Residence for any period in the Dominion, by an applicant for a Commonwealth pension who has been resident in the Commonwealth for a period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of his application, shall for the purpose of qualifying him for a pension be taken as equivalent to residence in the Commonwealth.

3. Residence for any period in the Commonwealth, by an applicant for a Dominion pension who has been resident in the Dominion for the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of his application, shall for the purpose of qualifying him for a pension be taken as equivalent to residence in the Dominion.

4. A separate account shall be kept by the Pension Departments of the Commonwealth and of the Dominion respectively, showing—

(a.) The amount of each pension paid in pursuance of this agreement to a person who, apart from this agreement, would not at the date of payment have been qualified for the pension by the length of his residence in the country in which the pension was granted.

(b.) The total period of residence in either country of each pensioner; and

(c.) The total sum so paid in each financial year.

5. The amounts of all pensions debited by either country to this separate account in any financial year shall be contributed by both countries in proportion to their

population at the end of the calendar year last past, as estimated by the official statistical returns.

6. This agreement shall not be in any way binding unless and until it is approved by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the Dominion.

7. This agreement may be reviewed by either or both of the parties thereto at the expiration of five years from the commencement thereof, but any alteration of the terms thereof shall not be binding unless and until approved by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and Dominion respectively.

In witness whereof the Honourable Andrew Fisher (Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia), for and on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the Honourable Francis Marion Bates Fisher, for and on behalf of the Dominion, have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

Signed by the above-named Andrew Fisher in the presence of—	G. W. T. Allen, Secretary to the Treasury.	}	ANDREW FISHER. 14/6/13.
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Signed by the above-named Francis Marion Bates Fisher in the presence of—	A. Hall, Private Secretary, Wellington, N.Z.	}	F. M. B. FISHER. 30/5/13.
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