

1689

Mr. J. C. Brown.

REDUCTION OF GOLD EXPORT DUTY.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to reduce the Export Duty on Gold.

Title.

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

5 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Reduction of Gold Export Duty Act, 1886." Short Title.

2. From and after the coming into operation of this Act the duty levied upon gold previous to exportation thereof from the colony under "The Customs Duties Consolidation Act, 1882," shall be reduced at 10 the rate of one shilling for every ounce weight of such gold, as mentioned in the said Act: Annual reduction in gold duty till duty ceases.

Provided, however, that this Act shall not apply to any mining district in the North Island of New Zealand unless the following conditions are first complied with:— Special proviso applying to North Island.

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

20 (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.

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

(4.) That the Governor in Council shall issue a Proclamation bringing this Act into operation within such mining district.

Gold exporter to make a statutory declaration as to when gold obtained.

3. From and after the coming into operation of this Act the exporter of any gold shall deliver to the Collector of Customs at the place of export a statutory declaration made by him setting forth whether any, and, if so, what, part of such gold was obtained by mining, in respect of gold obtained in the South Island of New Zealand, before coming into operation of this Act; and, in respect of gold obtained in any mining district in the said North Island proclaimed as aforesaid, after the date of such Proclamation; and the export duty then leviable under "The Customs Duties Consolidation Act, 1882," or such Act and this Act, as the case may require, shall be payable accordingly. 5 10

Penalty on exporter making false declaration.

4. If any exporter of gold shall knowingly make a false statutory declaration in relation to any matter upon which he is required to make such declaration under this Act, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, punishable, on conviction thereof, by fine not exceeding *five hundred* pounds, or imprisonment not exceeding two years, or by both fine and imprisonment as aforesaid, at the discretion of the Judge by whom the offence shall be tried. 15

Act to come into operation.

5. This Act shall come into operation on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.