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Mr. Bruce.

SEAMEN REPRESENTATION.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to grant Representation to Seamen in the House of Representatives. Title.

WHEREAS, from the nature of their avocation, seamen belonging to the Colony of New Zealand are prevented from voting at the election of members of the House of Representatives: And whereas every class in the community should be represented in Parliament: And whereas it is desirable that special provision should be made for the representation of seamen in the House of Representatives: Preamble.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Seamen Representation Act, 1885." Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.

“Master” means and includes every person (except a pilot) having command or charge of any ship :

“Seaman” means and includes every person employed or engaged in any capacity on board any ship who has been at sea for two years, and who is not an alien, and who has not been convicted of treason, felony, or any infamous offence, unless he has been pardoned or has served the term of imprisonment to which he was sentenced :

“Ship” means and includes every description of vessel used in navigation, not propelled by oars.

One member granted.

3. After the dissolution or expiration of the present Parliament there shall be chosen by the seamen, as hereinafter mentioned, one member of the House of Representatives, and such member shall be in addition to the number of members provided by “The Representation Act, 1881,” or any Act amending the same, and in addition to the members elected for main electoral districts.

Seamen qualified to elect.

4. Every seaman of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, having been six months in the Colony of New Zealand or six months sailing as a seaman on board any ship registered in or owned in the Colony of New Zealand, and whose name is registered as hereinafter mentioned, shall be qualified to be an elector and to vote at the election of the member granted by this Act.

Qualification of members.

5. Every person competent to be an elector under this Act, or to be an elector under any Act providing for the qualification of electors of members for the House of Representatives, and not disqualified under “The Public Offenders Disqualification Act, 1867,” or any Act amending or continuing the same, shall be competent to be elected a member under this Act.

Ceasing to be an elector not to cause member to lose his seat.

6. Any member elected to be a member under this Act shall not cease to be a member on the ground that he has ceased to be an elector.

Preparation of lists.

7. The Collectors of Customs at each port shall, immediately after the passing of this Act, and thereafter from year to year, prepare lists showing the seamen shipped from their respective ports who have been six months in the Colony of New Zealand, or six months sailing on board any ship registered in the Colony of New Zealand, and shall keep a copy thereof in the Customs Office for reference.

Claims to have name placed on roll.

8. Every person qualified to be an elector, whose name is not on the list of any Collector of Customs, but who desires to have his name placed on a list, may make a claim and declaration in the form or to the effect set forth in the *First* Schedule to this Act. Such claim and declaration may be delivered at the office of such Collector of Customs, or sent through the post directed to him.

Electors Act, 1879, to apply.

9. Sections eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, and twenty of “The Registration of Electors Act, 1879,” shall apply to and be incorporated with this Act, with the exception that where the word “Registrar” occurs therein the words “Collector of Customs” shall be substituted and read in lieu thereof.

Lists to be sent to Secretary of Customs.

10. The lists shall, one month after they have been begun to be prepared by the Collector of Customs, with the additions and alterations (if any) within that month or ordered by any Resident Magistrate, be forwarded to the Secretary of Customs at Wellington.

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11. The Secretary of Customs shall form a roll which shall consist of the various lists sent to him, and such roll shall from time to time be the roll for the election of a member under this Act. Roll to be formed.
12. The Secretary of Customs shall, immediately after receiving the first lists, and every three years thereafter, forward to the various Collectors of Customs a seaman's electoral right, in the form set forth in the *Second* Schedule hereto, for each person whose name shall be on the roll, and who shall not have during the three preceding years received an electoral right; and the Collectors of Customs shall at once take steps to deliver or forward to the seamen concerned the said electoral rights. Electoral rights to be issued.
13. All electoral rights, except those to be issued in pursuance of the *fourteenth* clause of this Act, shall remain in force for three years from the date of issue. Electoral rights to remain in force for three years.
14. Every person whose name is put on the roll at any time after one set of electoral rights has been issued, but before the succeeding set is ready for issue, shall be entitled to have an electoral right issued to him within fourteen days after his name is put on the roll; but all electoral rights to be issued in pursuance of this clause shall only be in force until the next issue of electoral rights. New electors may have electoral rights issued.
15. The provisions of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1881," except so far as modified by this Act, shall in every respect apply to the elections under this Act. "Regulation of Elections Act, 1881," to apply.
16. The Secretary of Customs and each Collector of Customs shall respectively be Returning and Deputy Returning Officers under this Act. Returning Officers appointed.
17. The nomination of a member shall be as follows: Any seaman qualified as an elector may, by writing under his hand, nominate a person qualified to be elected as a candidate; and if this nomination be signed by two other seamen qualified as electors, and delivered to the Returning Officer or his Deputy on or before the day appointed for that purpose, the person nominated shall be deemed to be duly nominated. Nominations.
18. If more than one person be nominated, a poll shall be taken. Poll to be taken.
19. The poll shall be taken by ballot, and every customhouse in the colony shall be a polling-place; and the Governor may, in places where there is no customhouse, appoint places for the taking of the poll, and may appoint Returning Officers thereat. Polling-places.
20. The poll shall be open for twenty-eight days, from nine a.m. till six p.m. on each day. Time poll to remain open.
21. At every polling-place there shall be a copy of the roll, and no person shall be permitted to vote unless he produces his electoral right. Person voting to produce his electoral right.
22. On production by an elector of his electoral right, and on being satisfied that the name of such elector appears on the roll, and that he is the person whose name is on the electoral right, and that he has not previously voted at the election, the Returning or Deputy Returning Officer shall give such elector a voting-paper, and shall endorse the electoral right thus: "Voted; election held from to ,," and the date of the said voting, and sign his name, and seal or stamp the voting-paper with the Returning Officer's seal or stamp. Electoral right of vote to be indorsed by Returning Officer.

Masters of ships to allow seamen to vote.

23. Every master of a ship which happens to be in a port where there is a polling-booth, at a time when there is a poll being taken under this Act, shall, at the request of any of the crew being electors, allow such person or persons to go ashore and vote; and every master refusing as aforesaid to permit any of his crew to vote shall be liable to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

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If electoral rights lost, duplicates to be issued.

24. Any person who may lose his electoral right shall be entitled to a duplicate thereof on the payment of two shillings and making the declaration in the *Third* Schedule hereto.

Penalty for false declaration.

25. Any person who wilfully makes a false declaration in respect of any of the particulars required to be stated in any claim or declaration under this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, or to any term not exceeding three months' imprisonment.

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Schedules.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

CLAIM FOR ENROLMENT.

To the Collector of Customs at

I HEREBY claim to have my name inserted on the list of seamen qualified to elect a member of the House of Representatives; and I declare that I have been engaged at sea for two years, and have sailed in a ship registered [or owned] in the Colony of New Zealand [or resided in the Colony of New Zealand] for the six months immediately preceding the date hereof.

Dated the day of , 18 .

(Name.)
(Address.)
(Occupation.)

Signed and declared by the claimant, this
day of , before me,
Collector of Customs [or Justice of the
Peace, or an elector of the colony].

SECOND SCHEDULE.

ELECTORAL RIGHT.

THIS is to certify that is qualified as an elector for a member to represent seamen in the House of Representatives in pursuance of "The Seamen Representation Act, 1884."

(Secretary of Customs.)

Indorsed; voted; election held from to
Dated this day of , 18 .

(Returning Officer.)

THIRD SCHEDULE.

DECLARATION OF LOSS OF ELECTORAL RIGHT.

I [*name in full*] do hereby declare that I am the [*Here insert name of declarant*] whose name is on the roll of electors for a member to represent seamen in the House of Representatives, and that I have not parted with my electoral right to any person whomsoever, for any purpose whatsoever; but that the same has been lost or mislaid or destroyed.

Signed by the said , in the presence
of , Collector of Customs [or
Justice of the Peace].