

WAR DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

By the War Regulations Continuance Act, 1920, and other enactments, certain disabilities are imposed, *inter alios*, on those classes of British subjects who are, by virtue of their birth or for some other reason, within the definitions of the terms "alien enemy" and "person of enemy origin" as used in those enactments.

It is submitted that the time has passed which rendered necessary the special restrictions aforesaid, and that the ordinary safeguards against disaffection are now sufficient. In accordance with this view, the Bill restores to such British subjects their full privileges as such, and provides that no British subject (whether by birth or naturalization or otherwise) shall hereafter be deemed to be an alien enemy or a person of enemy origin.

The principal relative enactments are the following:—

- (1.) The War Legislation and Statute Law Amendment Act, 1918: Part I (Acquisition of Land by Persons of Enemy Origin, including former alien enemies).
- (2.) The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Amendment Act, 1919 (conferring special rights to divorce on the wives of persons of enemy origin).
- (3.) Regulations continued in force by the War Regulations Continuance Act, 1920, relating to—
 - (a.) Applications for probate by alien enemies:
 - (b.) Distribution of estates to beneficiaries or creditors who may be alien enemies.
 - (c.) Acquisition of interests in companies by or on behalf of alien enemies:
 - (d.) Vesting company shares owned by alien enemies in the Public Trustee as custodian of enemy property:
 - (e.) Restricting right of naturalized British subjects to be employed in or about the lading or unlading of ships:
 - (f.) Restricting power to employ any alien enemy as master, mate, or engineer on any home-trade ship.

So far as the enactments and regulations aforesaid affect persons other than British subjects their operation is not affected by the present Bill.

1519.

This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives.

21st September, 1922.

Hon. Mr. Downie Stewart.

WAR DISABILITIES REMOVAL.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.
1. Short Title.</p> | <p>2. Certain Acts and regulations relating to alien enemies not applicable to British subjects.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to remove certain Disabilities suffered by such British
 Subjects as are within the Purview of certain War Regulations
 and other Enactments relating to Alien Enemies and Persons
 of Enemy Origin.

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 War Disabilities Removal Act,
 1922.

2. No person who in New Zealand is a British subject, whether
 by birth or naturalization or otherwise howsoever, shall hereafter
 be subject to any disabilities or disqualifications imposed by any
 Act or war regulations or other enactment in respect of alien
 enemies or persons of enemy origin, as those terms are defined by
 any such enactment.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1922.

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