

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, the 10th day of August, 1881.

NOTICES RELATING TO ORDERS OF THE DAY.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL.

Mr. J. B. FISHER, in Committee, to move the following new clauses:—

(a.) Any person of the full age of forty years, having no child of his own, may petition the Resident Magistrate's Court for the district for leave to adopt a child, but the prayer of such petition by a person having a husband or wife shall not be granted unless the husband or wife joins therein.

Such petition shall be heard in open Court before a Resident Magistrate, and at least two Justices of the Peace.

(b.) No decree for such adoption shall be made, except as hereinafter provided, without the written consent of the surviving parent or parents of the child, if any, and of the child, if above the age of *fourteen* years; and a giving up of the child in writing for the purpose of adoption to any charitable institution incorporated by law shall operate as a consent to any adoption subsequently approved by such institution.

No person shall adopt any child unless he shall be at least *eighteen* years older than the child proposed to be adopted.

(c.) If either parent is unknown, or adjudged by two medical men to be hopelessly insane, or under sentence of imprisonment, or penal servitude for a term of not less than seven years, or has wilfully deserted and neglected to provide proper care and maintenance for such child during a term of *one* year next preceding the date of the petition, or suffered such child to be supported by any charitable institution, or as a pauper by the colony, or any public body therein, for more than *one* year continuously prior to the petition, the consent of such parent shall not be required.

(d.) If both parents have been resident for *two* years next preceding the petition beyond seas, the Colonial Secretary, upon being satisfied that reasonable efforts have been made to obtain such consent without success, may give such consent.

(e.) If both parents are dead, the guardian, if any, and if there is no guardian the Colonial Secretary, or the executors or administrators of the parent last deceased within the colony who are adults, may give such consent.

(f.) Whenever the parent, if living and residing within the colony, does not consent, a copy of the petition, with notice of the day, time, and place appointed for the hearing, shall be served personally upon such parent at least *twenty-eight* days before the hearing.

(g.) Whenever the parent is dead, or residing abroad, or cannot be found, such petition and notice shall be published for *three* successive weeks in such newspaper or newspapers as the Court shall order, the last publication to be *seven* days at least before the day appointed for the hearing; and, in any case, the Court may order such additional notice and consent as may be deemed proper.

(h.) A person of adult age may be adopted in like manner, upon his own consent, without other consent or notice.

(i.) If satisfied of the identity and relations of the parties, and that the petitioner is of sufficient ability to bring up the child and furnish suitable nurture and education, and that it is proper such adoption should take place, the Court shall make a decree, ordering that the child or person shall thereafter be, to all intents and purposes, the child of the petitioner, and may also decree such change of name as the petitioner may pray for.

(j.) Two or more petitioners may join in one petition in respect of different children, being brothers or sisters.

(k.) A child or person so adopted shall be deemed for the purpose of inheritance and all other legal consequences of the natural relation of parent and child, to be the child of the parent or parents by adoption as if born to them in lawful wedlock, except that he shall not take property expressly limited to the heirs of the body or bodies of the parents by adoption, nor property from the lineal or collateral kindred of such parents by right of representation.

(l.) Such adoption shall terminate all the rights, obligations, and legal incidents and consequences of the relation of parent and child between the child or person and his natural parents, except the right of the child or person to take property as heir or next of kin of his natural parents or kindred, directly, or by right of representation.

(m.) Any person aggrieved by an order, denial, or decree of the Court in such petition may, either upon matter of law or fact, appeal therefrom to the Supreme Court, in like manner as appeals are now taken to the Supreme Court; and thereupon such petition and the proceedings thereupon shall be transferred into the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court shall thereupon make such order in regard to such petition, and the order, denial, or decree made thereupon, as shall be just; and such order of the Supreme Court shall be final.

(n.) The Supreme Court, in its discretion, may allow any parent who had no personal notice of the proceedings before the order, denial, or decree, to appeal at any time within *one* year after actual notice thereof.

(o.) Every Court making a decree of adoption shall, within *fourteen* days thereafter, cause a copy of the petition with the proceedings and decree made thereon, and certified under the seal of such Court, to be forwarded to the Registrar-General, who shall register the same in a record to be kept by him for that purpose.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS BILL.

Mr. MURRAY, to move, on the motion "That the Redistribution of Seats Bill be now read a second time," to add the following words: "And that the members from each provincial district should be appointed sub-committees of this House, to arrange and report to this House as to the distribution of the representation within their respective provincial districts of the representation which, according to population, each shall be found to be entitled to."

Mr. MOSS, to move, on the second reading of "A Bill to readjust the Representation of the People," That the readjustment should be applied separately to each Island, so as not to increase the total number of members, nor to disturb the proportion in which the representation is now distributed between the two Islands.

GOLD DUTIES ABOLITION BILL.

Mr. MURRAY, to move the following new clause, to be substituted for clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Bill: "The Governor, upon receipt of a memorial signed by the Chairmen of the various County Councils in any provincial district, or a majority of them, praying that the duty upon gold and fees upon miners' rights be reduced or remitted within such provincial district, may, by Proclamation in the *New Zealand Gazette*, reduce or remit the duties levied upon gold produced, and the fees imposed upon the issue of miners' rights, in such provincial district, and may from time to time, upon memorial signed as above being presented to him, vary, alter, revoke or renew such Proclamation, in conformity with the prayer of the memorialists."