

- Part I. Voting in New Zealand by Expeditionary Forces
- Part II. Voting out of New Zealand on Licensing Proposals.
- Part III. General Provisions as to Electoral Rights.
- Part IV. General.

Part I confers on all persons who have been members of an Expeditionary Force, and who have returned to New Zealand after service beyond the seas, the right to vote at the next general election of members of Parliament and at the licensing poll, whether they have been registered as electors under the Legislature Act, 1908, or not.

Part II makes provision for taking the votes of soldiers who have not yet returned to New Zealand on the issues to be submitted at the next licensing poll.

Part III makes certain amendments of the Legislature Act, 1908. It provides, *inter alia*, for the registration as electors, without complying with conditions as to residence, of persons who, having been absent from New Zealand on war work, may return to New Zealand before the date of the next general election.

Part IV enables the Governor-General to make regulations for the purpose of carrying the Act into effect, and provides that no election or poll shall be invalidated by failure to take or record the votes of any member of an Expeditionary Force in New Zealand or elsewhere.

1919, No. 52.—The Finance Act, 1919.—This Act is divided into Parts as follows:—

- Part I. Public Revenues Amendment.
- Part II. Loans for Public Works and other Purposes.
- Part III. Pensions.
- Part IV. General.

Part I makes various amendments of the Public Revenues Act, 1910. It provides, *inter alia*, for the increase of the amount that may be invested in Reserve Fund securities from £800,000 to £2,000,000.

Part II authorizes the borrowing of a sum not exceeding £750,000 for the erection of school-buildings and other public works, and also provides for borrowing an additional £150,000 for purposes of the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers Improvement Act.

Part III increases the amount of pensions payable to miners in respect of pneumoconiosis, and of widows' pensions payable under Part II of the Pensions Act, 1913. Section 12 extends the classes of cases where pensions are payable to the wives of members of the Expeditionary Forces in respect of the disablement of their husbands. Section 13 extends the benefits of the War Pensions Act to men who served in the South African War and to their dependants. Section 14 makes provision for the payment of pensions to members of the Police Force and to their dependants in respect of disablement arising as the result of their duties.

Part IV: Section 15 enables local authorities to erect war memorials and to borrow money for the purpose. Section 19 empowers the Governor-General to impose a surtax on goods imported into New Zealand from countries with which His Majesty has lately been at war. Section 20 prohibits any local authority from borrowing money (otherwise than by way of bank overdraft) without the precedent consent of the Governor-General in Council. Section 24 extends the classes of dependants to whom the bonus payable in respect of deceased members of the Expeditionary Force pursuant to section 7 of the Expeditionary Forces Amendment Act, 1918, may be paid.

1919, No. 53.—The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Amendment Act, 1919.—Section 9 of this Act reduces from five to three years the period of desertion that constitutes a ground of divorce. Section 10 applies the Matrimonial Causes (Dominion Troops) Act, 1919 (Imperial), to New Zealand. Sections 2 to 8 (the commencement of which is postponed until a date to be named in that behalf in a Proclamation to be issued by the Governor-General) make special provisions with respect to matrimonial causes affecting persons of enemy origin. Section 2 defines the term "person of enemy origin." Section 3 provides a special ground of divorce for British women who are the wives of persons of enemy origin. Sections 4 and 6 relate to the procedure following upon a petition for divorce in any such case. Section 8 constitutes the mother the guardian of the children born of the marriage of a natural-born British woman to a man of enemy origin.

1919, No. 54.—The Reserves and other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Act, 1919.—This Act makes provision for the exchange, sale, reservation, and other disposition of certain reserves, Crown lands, endowments, and other lands. It also authorizes certain specific transactions, and confers certain powers on certain public bodies. Its provisions are without exception of local and not of general application.

1919, No. 55.—The Appropriation Act, 1919.—This Act appropriates for the use of His Majesty the moneys required for the purposes of the current financial year. In addition it contains certain miscellaneous provisions, of which the most important are the following:—

- (1.) Sections 18 and 19 extend the authorities for the borrowing of money for the purposes of the Hauraki Plains Act, 1908, and the Rangitaiki Land Drainage Act, 1910.
- (2.) Section 25 validates certain payments that have been made out of war funds for purposes other than those for which the funds in question were established.
- (3.) Section 26 authorizes the payment of a sum of £50,000 to the Government Railways Superannuation Fund, for the purposes of that fund.
- (4.) Section 29 validates payments made by local authorities in respect of the visit to New Zealand of H.M.S. "New Zealand."
- (5.) Section 30 repeals certain restrictive provisions relating to the payment out of the Consolidated Fund of subsidies to County Councils.
- (6.) Section 39 provides for an advance by way of loan of the sum of £15,000 to the Greymouth Harbour Board, and makes provision for the removal of certain restrictions as to the making and levying of tolls, dues, and other charges by the Greymouth Harbour Board.
- (7.) Section 40 increases the salary of the Controller and Auditor-General.
- (8.) Sections 41, 42, and 43 make certain concessions with respect to the classification of the Public Service and the Post and Telegraph Department.