

New Zealand.



ANALYSIS.

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1896, No. 54.

AN ACT to provide for the Registration of Claims, with a View to the Establishment of a Fund for Old-age Pensions.

[17th October, 1896.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to ascertain the probable cost of establishing an Old-age Pension Fund :

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 Registration of People's Claims Act, 1896." Short Title.

2. (1.) Every person shall be entitled to a pension certificate under this Act who on the date of the coming into operation of this Act is of the full age of sixty-five years or upwards : Persons entitled to pension certificates.

Provided—

Proviso.

- (a.) That he is residing in the colony on such date ; and also
- (b.) That he has so resided for, in all, not less than twenty years on such date ; and also
- (c.) That he has so resided continuously for not less than three years immediately preceding such date ; and also
- (d.) That he has not been absent from the colony for, in all, more than eighteen months during the period of ten years immediately preceding such date ; and also

(e.) That his total income from all sources (exclusive of his personal earnings) does not exceed the rate of fifty pounds per year.

(2.) For the purposes of this section a person whilst in prison shall be deemed to be absent from and not residing in the colony.

DISTRICTS AND REGISTRARS.

Districts.

3. For the purposes of this Act the Governor may from time to time divide the colony into such districts, with such names and boundaries, as he thinks fit.

Alteration of boundaries.

4. If any such district is constituted by reference to the boundaries of any other portion of the colony, as defined by any other Act, then any alteration in such boundaries shall take effect in respect of such district without any further proceedings unless the Governor otherwise determines.

Registrar and Deputy Registrars.

5. (1.) The Governor may from time to time appoint a Registrar, who, subject to the control of the Colonial Treasurer, shall have the general administration of this Act.

(2.) The Governor may also from time to time appoint in and for every such district a Deputy Registrar and such other persons as he deems fit.

Powers and duties of Registrar and Deputy Registrars.

6. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Registrar and every Deputy Registrar and other person appointed as aforesaid shall have such powers and duties as the Governor from time to time determines.

PENSION-CLAIMS AND PENSION CERTIFICATES.

Pension-claim.

7. Every person, male or female, claiming to be entitled to a pension certificate under this Act shall, not later than the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, or such extended date as the Governor prescribes, deliver his claim (hereinafter called a "pension-claim") to the Deputy Registrar of the district wherein the claimant resides.

Form thereof.

8. The pension-claim shall be in the form or to the effect set forth in the First Schedule hereto, with all such modifications as the particular circumstances of the case require.

Register of claims.

9. The Deputy Registrar shall in the prescribed manner file the claim, and record it in a book to be called "The District Old-age Pension-claims Register": such register shall be in the prescribed form.

Pension-claims to be numbered.

10. All pension-claims shall be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are entered in the register, and no two pension-claims shall bear the same number.

Deputy Registrar to investigate.

11. The Deputy Registrar shall fully investigate the pension-claim for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the claimant is entitled to the pension certificate.

May administer oaths.

12. For the purposes of such investigation he may administer an oath, and require evidence to be given on oath.

Evidence to be corroborated.

13. No pension-claim shall be admitted unless the evidence of the claimant is corroborated on all material points.

How pension-claim to be dealt with.

14. The Deputy Registrar may admit the pension-claim, or postpone it for further evidence, or reject it, as he deems equitable; and his decision shall be notified to the claimant in the prescribed manner.

15. If the Deputy Registrar admits the pension claim he shall issue to the claimant a pension certificate in the form or to the effect set forth in the Second Schedule hereto.

Issue of pension certificate.

16. The Deputy Registrar shall also enter in a book, to be called "The District Old-age Pension Certificate Register," the claimant's full name, occupation, and address, and the number of the pension certificate.

Particulars to be entered in pension register.

17. All entries of pension certificates in the Old-age Pension Certificate Register shall be numbered consecutively, so that no two entries in the same register shall bear the same number.

Pension certificates to be numbered.

GENERAL.

18. On a day to be named by the Governor each Deputy Registrar shall prepare a return showing separately, in respect of all pension claims received by him in his district, the number admitted, the number rejected, and the number postponed or unadjusted, and shall forward such return to the Registrar.

Return to be made,

19. Upon receipt of all such returns the Registrar shall compile therefrom, and lay before Parliament, a general return setting forth the same particulars for the whole colony.

And laid before Parliament.

20. In the event of an Old-age Pension Fund being hereafter established by any Act, every fact proved under this Act shall be deemed to be proved under that Act; and all entries made in registers under this Act, and all pension certificates issued under the Act, shall be available as evidence accordingly.

Matters proved under this Act to avail for purposes of Pension Fund if hereafter established

21. All expenses incurred in administering this Act shall be payable out of moneys to be from time to time appropriated by Parliament.

Expenses of administering Act.

22. The Governor may from time to time make such regulations as he thinks necessary for the purpose of giving effect to whatever is expressed in this Act as prescribed, and, generally, of carrying out the intention of this Act.

Regulations.

SCHEDULES.

Schedules.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

EXAMPLE OF PENSION-CLAIM.

1. My full name, occupation, and address
are A.B., of Wellington, Carpenter.
2. I was born at Bristol, England.
3. On or about The 3rd March, 1830.
4. And first arrived in New Zealand At Dunedin.
5. On or about The 4th January, 1873.
6. By the Sailing-ship "Merope."
7. My age next birthday will be Sixty-nine.
8. Since my first arrival in New Zealand I have been absent therefrom three times, and no more, that is to say,—
 - (a.) On or about the 15th September, 1874, I sailed from Dunedin for Sydney by the steamer "Arawata"; and I returned to Auckland by the steamer "Tararua" on or about the 1st February, 1875, after an absence of four months and a half.

- (b.) On or about the 1st December, 1880, I sailed from Auckland for Melbourne by the steamer "Albion"; and I returned to Dunedin by the steamer "Rotomahana" on or about the 1st June, 1881, having thus been absent about six months.
- (c.) On or about the 14th October, 1881, I sailed from Lyttelton for London by the steamer "Ionic"; and I returned to Wellington by the steamer "Doric" on or about the 16th April, 1882, after an absence of about six months.

I, the above-named A.B., hereby make claim for a pension certificate under the provisions of "The Registration of People's Claims Act, 1896," and do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows, that is to say:—

1. That, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing statements are true in every particular.

2. That I have resided in the Colony of New Zealand, within the meaning of the above-mentioned Act, for in all not less than twenty years.

3. That I have so resided continuously for not less than ten years immediately preceding the day of , 18 .

4. That I have not been absent from the said colony within the meaning of the said Act for, in all, more than eighteen months during the period of twenty years immediately preceding the day of , 18 .

5. That my present means of support (excluding my personal earnings) do not exceed the rate of fifty pounds per year.

6. That I have not heretofore made any pension-claim [or, if a pension-claim has previously been made, state in what district, and on what date it was made, and how it was disposed of].

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1882,"

A.B.

Declared at , this day of , 189 , by the above-named A.B., before me—

C.D.,

Justice of the Peace [or Solicitor, or as the case may be].

SECOND SCHEDULE.

PENSION CERTIFICATE.

Old-age Pension District of
Wellington.

No.

Under "The Registration of People's Claims Act, 1896."

Pension Certificate.

THIS is to certify that A.B., of *Wellington, Carpenter*, is the holder of this pension certificate under the provisions of "The Registration of People's Claims Act, 1896."

Dated at *Wellington*, this *14th* day of *January*, 18 .

E.F.,

Deputy Registrar for the Old-age Pension District of *Wellington*.