

Hon. Mr. Lee.

ARMS AMENDMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Arms Act, 1920.

Title.

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 Arms Amendment Act, 1921-22, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Arms Act, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. Subsection four of section three of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following subsection substituted therefor:—

Amended provisions as to possession of automatic pistols.

“(4.) The Minister of Defence may, by license in writing, authorize any person who has served beyond the seas as a member of any of His Majesty's Forces in any war, or any near relative of any such member, to retain possession of any unlawful weapon which that member has used beyond the seas, or which he has brought with him into New Zealand from beyond the seas; or may, in like manner, authorize any other person to have in his possession any unlawful weapon; subject, however, in every case to such conditions as to user or custody as the said Minister may impose. Any such license may at any time be revoked by the Minister without notice.”

3. (1.) Section seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the words “other than a licensed dealer.”

Section 7 of principal Act amended.

(2.) Nothing in section seven of the principal Act, as amended by this section, shall be so construed as to render necessary the possession of a permit by any licensed dealer for the purpose of enabling such dealer to bring or cause to be brought or sent into

New Zealand any firearms, ammunition, or explosives, as mentioned in section six of the principal Act.

Section 7 of principal Act further amended.

4. Section seven of the principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting at the beginning of subsection five the words " Except as may be otherwise specially provided by statute in any case."

Special provisions as to permits issued to licensed dealers to procure firearms, &c.

5. Every permit issued to a licensed dealer under section seven of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, shall, according to its tenor but subject to any regulations relating thereto, remain in force until the expiry or other termination of the license issued to that dealer under section eleven of that Act, or for any shorter period that may be specified in such permit, and may be a general authority to procure the possession of firearms, ammunition, or explosives during the currency of the permit, or may be specific with reference either to any firearms, ammunition, or explosives or to the person or class of persons from whom any firearms, ammunition, or explosives may be procured.

Special provisions as to explosives required in blasting operations.

6. (1.) Where explosives are required for blasting operations in any mine, quarry, tunnel, excavation, or work, it shall be sufficient compliance with the provisions of section seven of the principal Act if such explosives are procured pursuant to a permit issued under that section to the person in charge of the blasting operations in such mine, quarry, tunnel, excavation, or work, as the case may be, or to any other suitable person, and it shall not be necessary that the workmen or other persons proposing to use such explosives should have permits to procure possession of the same :

Provided that every person who procures possession of any explosives pursuant to a permit as aforesaid shall be required to keep a record in accordance with regulations in respect of the issue of such explosives to any workmen or other persons for use in blasting operations as aforesaid.

(2.) Any such permit to procure possession of explosives for use in blasting operations as aforesaid shall, according to its tenor but subject to regulations, remain in force for such period as may be specified therein or during the continuance of the work in respect of which the permit was issued.

Rifle clubs may procure ammunition from Defence Department without a permit.

7. (1.) Any Defence rifle club recognized under the Defence Act, 1909, and approved for the purposes of this section by the Commissioner of Police, may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, procure from the Minister of Defence without a permit under section seven of the principal Act any ammunition for military rifles required by the members of that club for use on a rifle range.

(2.) Any rifle club may dispose of any ammunition procured by it as aforesaid to the members of the club for use on a rifle range, but to no other person, without requiring the production of a permit as aforesaid. The club shall keep in accordance with regulations a record in respect of the issue of ammunition under this section.

(3.) The approval of the Commissioner of Police of any Defence rifle club for the purposes of this section may be at any time revoked without notice.

Modification of section 7 of principal Act as to procuring ammunition for sporting rifles.

8. (1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section seven of the principal Act, the Commissioner of Police, if authorized so to do by regulations under the principal Act, may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, prescribe that ammunition ordinarily used

for rifles of which the calibre does not exceed .22, and which are ordinarily used for sporting purposes may be procured or delivered without a permit under that section.

(2.) Any such notice issued by the Commissioner of Police under this section may be at any time in like manner revoked.

9. Section nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "one month" wherever they occur, and substituting the words "seven days."

Limitation of time during which person may be in possession of unregistered firearms.

10. Section eleven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the words "Inspector, Sub-Inspector, or sergeant of police," and substituting the words "or Inspector of Police."

Section 11 of principal Act (relating to issue of dealers' licenses) amended.

11. (1.) In addition to the record required to be kept by licensed dealers pursuant to section twelve of the principal Act, every such dealer shall keep a record of all transactions, other than sales, by virtue whereof the possession of any firearms, ammunition, or explosives is delivered by him to any other person.

As to records to be kept by licensed dealers.

(2.) The provisions of section twelve of the principal Act shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the record required to be kept by this section in the same manner as it applies to a record of sales.

12. The provisions of the principal Act relative to firearms may be from time to time extended by the Governor-General in Council to apply to guns or pistols of any calibre that are not firearms properly so called.

Principal Act in so far as it relates to firearms may be applied to air-guns.

13. Regulations under section twenty-six of the principal Act may prescribe fines, not exceeding *twenty* pounds in any case, for the breach of or failure to comply with any such regulations.

Penalties for breaches of regulations under principal Act.