

Mr. Payne.

BLIND PERSONS' ASSISTANCE.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	2. Free railway passes to be issued.
1. Short Title.	3. Free carriage on ships and coaches.
	4. Fine.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to assist Returned Soldiers and other Persons who are suffering the Disability of Whole or Partial Blindness. 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 Blind Persons' Assistance Act, Short Title.
1916.

2. Any returned soldier, or any soldier who has served during the present war, and any person who is wholly or partially blind and who has been at least five years in New Zealand, is hereby entitled to receive a free railway pass available on all the State-owned lines of the Dominion, and the Minister of Railways is hereby authorized and empowered to issue such pass, and shall issue such pass, upon an application in person of the person entitled to such under the provisions hereof, and such pass shall be available on all trains, excursion trains, or otherwise. Free railway passes to be issued.

3. All companies engaged in water-carried goods and passenger traffic and all coach-proprietors carrying mail under contract with the Postmaster-General shall carry any person between any of the ports or towns of the Dominion free of charge who presents the railway pass as proof of his or her *bona fides* as a person wholly or partially blind. Free carriage on ships and coaches.

4. Any company or companies refusing to carry persons wholly or partially blind under the provisions of section *three* hereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *five* pounds for every such case of refusal. Fine.

By Authority : MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.—1916.