

803

Mr. Payne.

WAR EXIGENCIES AND EMPIRE PRESERVATION.

ANALYSIS.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Member of Parliament to have powers similar to a director of a company.</p> <p>3. Report.</p> | <p>4. Consideration of report.</p> <p>5. Business of House may be suspended until report considered.</p> <p>6. In recess six members may require Cabinet to consider report, &c.</p> |
|--|--|

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to enlarge the Powers of the Members of Parliament of the Dominion of New Zealand, in Order that the Position of a Member of Parliament may be similar to that of a Director of a Public Limited Liability Company, and whereby every Member of Parliament may have Access to all Public Offices, Accounts, Vouchers, and all Matters pertaining to the Work of Government, so that from Time to Time Every Member may report to Parliament on any Matter he may deem it necessary to report upon for the Good of the State as a Whole.

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 War Exigencies and Empire Preservation Act, 1916.

2. Every member of the Parliament of New Zealand is hereby empowered to act on behalf of the people in a similar capacity to that of the duly elected director of a limited liability company, and may examine the books, papers, deeds, documents, all files, maps, plans, drawings, all records, and any other kind or kinds of papers used in any military, police, or general Public Service office, and any branches of the Public Service; and all officers in the employ of the Government shall produce all papers required by any member of Parliament, and shall furnish such particulars any member of Parliament may require; and if any Government official refuses to so furnish papers, books, or documents of any kind whatsoever, then the member of Parliament shall suspend such officer and call upon the next officer in charge to produce the documents, *et cetera*, required; and the officer refusing to produce documents, *et cetera*, shall be liable to a fine to be imposed by the Public Service Commissioner not exceeding *five* pounds.

Report.

3. Every member of Parliament may furnish a report on any investigations he has made, and he shall make his report on any day in the week on which Parliament is sitting, immediately before Parliament proceeds with the orders of the day, and he shall be allowed to speak for thirty minutes on his report. No other member shall be entitled to speak on a report brought down by any other member of Parliament. 5

Consideration of report.

4. Any member on making a report may state if he wishes Cabinet to consider the matter of his report, and, if so, then Cabinet shall consider such report within forty-eight hours of the same being made by a member, and the Prime Minister shall announce to the House the decision of Cabinet regarding the report. 10

Business of House may be suspended until report considered.

5. If the provisions of section *four* hereof are not complied with, the member making the report may call upon five other members to support him, and on five other members rising in support of the report, all other business of the House shall be suspended until the report has been fully considered, but each member shall be limited to ten minutes in speaking to the report. 15

In recess six members may require Cabinet to consider report, &c.

6. When Parliament is not in session, any six members may require Cabinet to meet and consider the report, and if, in the opinion of the six members, Cabinet does not deal with the matter of the report in an effective manner, then by circular over the signatures of the six members, an informal meeting of Parliament may be called together, and any member of Parliament so required to attend an informal or emergency meeting of Parliament not attending such emergency meeting shall be liable to a fine of *five* pounds per day for each day he fails to appear, and no excuse for non-attendance shall be valid, except that sickness may be a valid excuse for non-attendance. 20 25