

Register of Aliens – Hutt County - 1917Alexander Turnbull Library Reference P ATL NZ 323.631 NZ.CEN 1917

Memorandum for Registration Officers – Registration of Aliens Act, 1917

1. The Registration of Aliens Act applies to every person of *either sex*, not less than fifteen years of age, who is not a British subject by birth or by *naturalization in New Zealand*.

(a) Any person born in British territory is a British subject

(b) Any person now residing in New Zealand born of British parents in foreign territory, whose parents were not naturalized in that territory, is a British subject by parentage.

(c) Any person now resident in New Zealand born in foreign territory who has been naturalized or whose parents have been naturalized, while he or she was still a minor, in a British country but *not* in New Zealand, is an alien within the meaning of the Act.

(d) Any person now resident in New Zealand who was born in a foreign country but whose parents came to New Zealand and were naturalized here while he or she was still a minor and resided with them, is covered by the naturalization of his or her parents, and is not an alien within the meaning of the Act.

Married women take their husband's nationality.

2. The Registration of Aliens Act, the provisions of which are confined to aliens not naturalized in New Zealand, should not be confused with the War Regulations now in force requiring enemy aliens to report regularly to the police. While both cover somewhat the same ground, the War Regulations deal with all enemy aliens, whether naturalized or not, whereas the Act only deals with aliens *not naturalized in New Zealand*.

3. (a) As the prescribed period for registration expired some time ago, proceedings should now be taken against every alien coming within the scope of the Act who is not registered. This Register has been compiled from the best information available; it has a complete index attached; it is not a list of those registered under the Aliens Registration Act, but is issued to assist Alien Registration Officers in ascertaining if there are any unregistered aliens in their respective districts, so that the proper action may be taken.

(b) The marking as to whether the alien is a foreign subject or a naturalized British subject is the claim of the alien himself, and is not necessarily conclusive that he is naturalized in New Zealand. Proof of naturalization in New Zealand is to be obtained from the list of naturalized subjects issued by the Department of Internal Affairs – “Names of Alien Friends,” &c.

(c) Each Registration Officer should examine the portion of the roll which applies to his own district and check with his registration-book to see how many of the aliens have complied with the Act. Those who have not complied should be interviewed as soon as possible, and if they are unable to produce certificates of registration or give a satisfactory explanation for failure to do so proceedings should at once be instituted. Similar action should be taken in regard to any aliens who may be resident in the district but whose names do not appear on the roll.

4. As already advised by circular memorandum, the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs has decided that a fee of £5 shall be charged for a duplicate certificate under the Registration of Aliens Act. The Hon. the Minister has, however, reserved the right to reduce the fee should the circumstances of the alien be such that its payment would entail undue hardship. A Registration Officer should furnish with the application for a duplicate certificate a report on the circumstances, &c., of any alien asking for a reduction of the fee, so that it could be submitted to the Hon. the Minister for his consideration in dealing with the application for reduction.

Malcolm Fraser, Government Statistician, Wellington, 5th April, 1918.

Registration of Aliens Act 1917 (8 Geo V 1917 No 12)

An Act to provide for the Registration of Aliens in New Zealand [29th September 1917]

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 Registration of Aliens Act, 1917.

2. In this Act –

“Alien” means a person of either sex, not less than fifteen years of age, who is not a British subject either by birth or by naturalization in New Zealand

“Government Statistician” means the officer for the time being holding office under that title under the Census and Statistics Act, 1910, or any other person for the time being acting in the place of that officer

“Minister” means the Minister of the Crown for the time being charged by the Governor-General with the administration of this Act

“Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act or by regulations under this Act

“Registration officer” means a registration officer under this Act

3. (1) Every officer of police of a rank not lower than that of sergeant shall be a registration officer under this Act.

(2) The Minister may from time to time, by Warrant under his hand, appoint such other persons as he thinks fit as registration officers under this Act.

4. (1) Every alien in New Zealand on the passing of this Act who is not exempted by regulations from the operation thereof shall, within twenty-eight days after the passing of this Act, make application in the prescribed form for registration thereunder.

(2) Every such application shall be in writing in duplicate, and shall be made by delivering the same personally to a registration officer.

5. Every such application shall give, with respect to the applicant, the following particulars:-

- (a) His name in full
- (b) His nationality, and, if his nationality is not the nationality of origin, his nationality of origin
- (c) His place of birth
- (d) His age and date of birth
- (e) Whether he is married, or single, or a widower, or divorced
- (f) If married, the name, age, nationality of origin, and place of abode of his wife or of her husband (as the case may be)
- (g) If married, a widower, or divorced, the number, names and ages of his children (if any)
- (h) His occupation
- (i) The date of his arrival in New Zealand
- (j) His place of abode and postal address
- (k) Whether he is permanently resident in New Zealand
- (l) If not permanently resident in New Zealand, his place of permanent residence, and the date of his projected departure from New Zealand
- (m) Such other particulars as may from time to time be prescribed by regulations under this Act.

6. (1) Upon receipt of any such application for registration the registration officer shall issue a certificate of registration in the prescribed form, and shall forward the application in duplicate to the Superintendent of Police for the police district in which the application is received.

(2) The Superintendent shall thereupon file the application in his office, and shall forward a duplicate of the application to the Commissioner of Police, in Wellington, who shall transmit the same to the Government Statistician.

7. (1) The Government Statistician shall cause to be compiled a register, to be called the Register of Aliens, in such manner as may be prescribed, and for that purpose the Government Statistician may use any information lawfully in his possession, whether under this Act or not.

(2) The register shall be amended from time to time by correcting errors therein, by adding the names of aliens thereto, and by striking out the names of aliens who may die or leave New Zealand or cease to be subject to this Act.

8. Every alien who arrives in New Zealand after the passing of this Act and who has not been exempted from the operation of this Act by regulations thereunder shall, before being permitted to land in New Zealand, make application for registration under this Act, and the foregoing provisions as to the registration of aliens resident in New Zealand at the passing of this Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply

9. (1) Every alien who, being required to be registered under this Act, fails to make application for registration within the time and in the manner prescribed by this Act, or who lands in New Zealand without having made such application, or who wilfully makes any false or misleading statement in any application for registration under this Act, commits an offence, and shall be liable, on summary conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

(2) Section forty-nine of the Justices of the Peace Act, 1908, shall have no application to a prosecution for an offence against this section.

10. (1) Every alien registered under this Act who changes his place of abode to some place beyond the boundaries of the borough or county in which he was registered immediately before such change shall, within fourteen days thereafter, give written notice in duplicate of the fact and of his new place of abode to a registration officer exercising his functions in the locality in which the alien has become resident.

(2) Such notice shall be delivered personally to the registration officer, who shall require the alien to produce his certificate of registration, and shall note thereon the date of the notice and the new place of abode.

(3) The registration officer shall thereupon forward the notice to the Superintendent of Police for the district, who shall deal with the same as if it were an application for registration under this Act.

(4) Every person, who, being required by this section to give notice of a change of abode, fails to do so in accordance with this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

(5) For the purposes of this section a county shall be deemed to include every town district situated within the boundaries of that county.

11. (1) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council gazette, make regulations –

(a) Prescribing particulars to be given in applications for registration under this Act, in addition to the particulars referred to in section five hereof

(b) Prescribing forms of application for registration under this Act

(c) Prescribing the method in which particulars as to aliens shall be registered under this Act

(d) Prescribing for periodical reporting by aliens to registration officers

(e) Exempting from the operation of this Act any alien or any class or classes of aliens within the meaning of this Act and

(f) Generally prescribing any matter or thing that may be deemed necessary for carrying this Act into effect

(2) All regulations under this Act shall be laid before Parliament within fourteen days after the publication of the same in the *Gazette* if Parliament is then in session, and if not, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.