

for them, unlike the wretched male, to apply to the sheriff to be placed on the jury panel.

In most countries the subsequent marriage of parents has been sufficient to legitimate children born before the marriage. In New Zealand, however, it was necessary for the parents to register the birth before the legitimation became complete. A long overdue change has been effected by the Legitimation Act 1939 which, although providing for registration, does not make this obligatory. The subsequent marriage will perfect the legitimation so that the child will not be affected by failure to register on the part of his or her parents.

The social programme of the Government has not remained static during the period, with the Social Security Act 1941 as its most important work. Most New Zealanders will know that the original Social Security plan provided for free medical benefits but that its full implementation was delayed. Finally, amid much discussion on whether the restrictions on individual liberty were justified, the amendment was passed entitling the people to free medical services. Pharmaceutical requirements had been provided by regulations gazetted also in 1941. The result is that New Zealand's Social Security legislation is now almost complete. Amendments have been and will continue to be made from time to time to clear up anomalies as they arise.

Upon reading through the Statutes one cannot help but be impressed by the bewildering succession of Acts designed to separate a man from his money. It seems that human ingenuity can have no bounds in devising new schemes to this end. Finance Acts are

liable to legislate on any subject whatsoever, but the main purpose of deriving revenue is fully exploited. National Security Tax at a flat rate of 1/6 in the L. has been instituted as a wartime measure, death duties increased and exemption therefrom decreased, and an excess profits tax established. Even the War Damage Insurance Act, 1941, which made compulsory the payment of war damage insurance premiums of 5/- per cent (since heavily reduced) was viewed in many quarters as a revenue-producing scheme.

Possibly the most far-reaching amendment, and certainly the most widely used, is the Emergency Regulations Act 1939 under which the "Governor-General may from time to time, by Order-in-Council, make such regulations as appear to him to be necessary or expedient for securing the public safety, the defence of New Zealand, the maintenance of public order, the efficient prosecution of any war in which His Majesty may be engaged, for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community, and generally for safeguarding the interests and maintaining and promoting the welfare of the community." This singularly wide power is probably necessary to any Government in time of war.

Constant reference is made to what is called "government by regulation," and it is fair comment to say that there have been more regulations than statutes covering many important matters. The way through the regulations is thorny and full of pitfalls and no comment is being made on them other than the warning that you must be aware of the Emergency Regulation which will inevitably affect some part of your life.

