

County of Westland Amendment.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The County of Westland Act, 1868," and "The County of Westland Act Amendment Act, 1869." Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The County of Westland Acts Amendment Act, 1870;" and this Act and the unrepealed provisions of "The County of Westland Act, 1868," and of "The County of Westland Act Amendment Act, 1869," shall be read as one Act. Short Title.

2. For the purposes of this Act, each district for the time being constituted within the County of Westland returning Members of the Council of the said County, and each Road Board District within the said County, shall be deemed to be an Electoral District. Interpretation of term "Electoral District."

3. Subject as hereinafter mentioned, the provisions of the sixth section and of the several sections numbered consecutively from twenty-six to thirty-six both inclusive, and from thirty-eight to sixty, and from sixty-two to sixty-five all inclusive, of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," shall from henceforth so far as applicable apply to and be put in force in all elections of Members of the Council of the said County, and of Members of every Road Board within the said County, as if incorporated in "The County of Westland Act, 1868," *mutatis mutandis*. Certain sections of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," to apply as modified.

4. In the oath to be taken by every Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and Poll Clerk under this Act, pursuant to sections six and thirty of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," as incorporated herein, the words "by 'The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870,'" shall be omitted, and the words "The County of Westland Acts Amendment Act, 1870," substituted in lieu thereof. Section 30 of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," modified.

5. In the oath to be taken by every Scrutineer appointed to act at any polling booth, pursuant to section thirty-three of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," as incorporated herein, the words "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," shall be omitted, and the words "The County of Westland Acts Amendment Act, 1870," substituted in lieu thereof. Section 33 modified.

6. Section thirty-seven of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," as incorporated herewith, shall be read as if the words "for the election of a Member of the House of Representatives" had been omitted, and the words "in the election then being held" had been substituted in lieu thereof. Section 37 modified.

Section 40 modified.

7. In addition to the questions which may be put to any voter upon any election as in the fortieth section of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," provided for, there may be put to electors in any election under the provisions of this Act, if the person tendering his vote claims to vote as the holder of a miner's right or business license, the following questions (that is to say,)—

(1.) Are you now residing in this district [*Here state the name of the Electoral or Road District, as the case may be*], and have you resided therein continuously for two months immediately preceding the day of the nomination of candidates at this election ?

(2.) Are you of the age of twenty-one years ?

And if any person having tendered his vote to whom the prescribed questions shall be so put as aforesaid shall refuse and omit distinctly to answer the same and each part thereof, or shall not answer absolutely in the affirmative the said two prescribed questions if put to him, he shall be deemed prohibited from voting then or afterwards at such election, and shall be guilty of an offence, and on conviction shall forfeit and pay for the same a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, and the provisions of the forty-ninth section of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," shall apply to the said questions, as if prescribed in the fortieth section of the said last-named Act.

Section 59 modified.

8. Section fifty-nine of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," as incorporated herewith, shall be read as if the words "indorsed on the writ by the Returning Officer, and the writ shall be by him returned to the Clerk of the Writs, and within the time specified therein forthwith," had been omitted, and the words "returned by the Returning Officer as having been duly elected" had been substituted in lieu thereof.

Provisions of "The County of Westland Act, 1868," inconsistent with this Act, repealed.

9. All the provisions of "The County of Westland Act, 1868," relating to the conduct and regulation of elections of Members of the said Council, or of any Road Board within the said County, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed.

Interpretation.

10 In the provisions of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," incorporated herein, the term "Electoral Roll" shall for the purposes of this Act mean "Voters Roll;" and the term "Clerk of the House of Representatives" shall mean "Registrar of the Supreme Court of the Judicial District within which the Electoral District is situate." In the forty-third section of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1870," as incorporated herein, the expression "as the Governor in Council shall appoint under 'The Miners Representation Act, 1862,'" shall mean "as the Returning Officer shall appoint under the fiftieth section of 'The County of Westland Act, 1868.'"

Interpretation of "The County of Westland Account" in section 7 of "The County of Westland Act, 1869."

11 The term "The County of Westland Account" in the seventh section of "The County of Westland Amendment Act, 1869," shall be interpreted to mean and include, and from the passing of the last-named Act to have meant and included, not only the County of Westland Account constituted by the said Act, but also the Public Account kept by the County Treasurer of the said County before the passing of the said Act.