

Hon. Mr. Seddon.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	3. Amendments in principal Act.
Short Title.	4. Principal Act to be printed as amended.
2. Construction of principal Act.	5. Repeal.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the amendment of the Electoral Law.

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 is "The Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1894." Short Title.

2. "The Electoral Act, 1893" (herein referred to as "the principal Act"), shall, from the passing of this Act, take effect subject to the omissions, insertions, and substitutions required by this Act. Construction of principal Act.

3. The principal Act is hereby amended as follows:—

Amendments in principal Act.

(1.) Section three: In the definition respectively of,—
"Non-residential qualification" the words "or leasehold" are hereby repealed; and of

"Returning Officer," after the word "and," there shall be inserted the words "except for the purposes of section one hundred and twenty-two"; and

To the definition of "Seaman" the following words are hereby added: "For the purposes of this Act a "stewardess" shall be deemed to be included within the definition of "seaman:"

After the definition of "Seaman" the following words are hereby inserted: "'Shearer' means and includes every person who, during the season of the year for shearing sheep in any locality, is *bonâ fide* employed by any owner of sheep in such locality for shearing his sheep."

(2.) Section six: The following is hereby added as a paragraph at the end of the section:—

"For all purposes of the electoral law a person shall be deemed to have resided within the district wherein he

has his usual place of abode, notwithstanding his occasional absence from such district; and any seaman who has been for not less than twelve months in the colony, and continuously employed for not less than three months in the same or some other vessel trading between New Zealand ports, and has usually lived on board such vessel, shall be deemed for the aforesaid purposes to have resided in the district comprising any port at which such vessel has been calling at intervals during the period of three months immediately preceding the time when the said seaman makes his claim to be enrolled as an elector under this Act." 5 10

- (3.) Sections twenty-three and twenty-four are hereby repealed, and the following sections substituted in lieu thereof:—

" 23. If the Registrar be satisfied that any claim for enrolment is valid he shall forthwith place the name of the claimant on the roll. 15

" It shall be lawful for the claimant, by writing, to withdraw his claim.

" If the Registrar be not satisfied of the validity of any claim for enrolment, it shall be his duty, within the five days following the receipt of the claim, to make inquiries as to the truth of the particulars therein stated. If he shall satisfy himself, within the said five days, that the particulars stated as the claims are true he shall thereupon place the name of the claimant on the roll; otherwise, he shall, within the said five days, cause notice in writing to be given to the claimant, setting forth the particulars of which proof is required. 20 25

" 24. If, within twenty-one days after proof shall be required as aforesaid, the claimant shall fail to satisfy the Registrar that his claim is valid, and shall fail to withdraw his claim, the Registrar shall as soon as conveniently may be thereafter apply to a Stipendiary Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace for a summons, who shall forthwith issue a summons in the form or to the effect set forth in the Fifth Schedule." 30 35

- (4.) Section sixty-one: The words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after the words "or commercial traveller," and the following words shall be added to the section: "No elector's right shall be granted in any district after the issue of a writ for any election in such district until the completion of such election." 40

- (5.) Section sixty-two, subsection one: The words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after "commercial traveller"; subsection two, the words "or shearer's" are hereby inserted after "commercial traveller's" (within brackets); also at the end of the same subsection the words "or shearer" shall be added; in subsection three the words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after "commercial traveller"; and in the last paragraph of the section the words "and shearers" are hereby inserted after "commercial travellers." 45 50

- 5 (6.) Section sixty-four, subsections one and three respectively: The words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after the words "commercial traveller" where these occur in the said subsections; and in subsection five, the words "into the ballot-box" are hereby omitted, and the words "among the ballot-papers recorded" substituted therefor.
- (7.) Section sixty-six: The words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after "commercial traveller."
- 10 (8.) Section seventy-four: The words "at least ten days," and all words of the section after "hereto," are hereby omitted.
- (9.) Section seventy-seven: After the words "and in case such candidate" there shall be inserted the words "has not duly withdrawn from his candidature in manner as provided in the next following section, or."
- 15 (10.) Section ninety-six, subsection two: The words "six months" are hereby repealed, and the words "three months" substituted.
- 20 (11.) Section one hundred and twenty-three: The word "returned" is hereby omitted, and the word "transmitted" substituted therefor.
- (12.) Section one hundred and twenty-four is hereby repealed.
- (13.) Section one hundred and twenty-six: The words following are hereby added as a paragraph to the end thereof:—
- 25 "The provisions of this section shall not apply in respect of any election at which the electoral rolls formed under this Act may be used, and not being an election of any one or more members of the House of Representatives."
- 30 (14.) Section one hundred and thirty-nine, subsection four, is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—
- "(4.) The person so receiving such true copy shall, upon receiving information of such certificate, indorse upon the copy of the original document received by him a certificate that the same has been duly received under the provisions of this section, which certificate shall be signed by him and by the Justice so supervising the receipt of such copy as hereinbefore provided, and shall forthwith, by electric telegraph, inform the officer or person who delivered the original document to the telegraph officer that such certificate has been so indorsed.
- 35
- 40
- 45 (5.) In the case of any electoral writ, the person or officer to whom is addressed the telegraph message mentioned in the last-preceding subsection shall deposit such message with the telegraph officer aforesaid for record in the telegraph office, and thereupon the said telegraph officer shall forthwith, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, transmit the original electoral writ by post to the Returning Officer to whom it is addressed, who, on receipt thereof, shall substitute the original writ for the telegraph copy thereof
- 50

previously received by him, which shall then be deemed superseded, and shall, when the result of the election is ascertained, indorse and transmit such original writ to the Clerk of the Writs, as required by section one hundred and twenty-three." 5

(15.) Section one hundred and fifty-six, subsection eleven, in the second paragraph thereof: The words "Maori or" are hereby inserted before "half-caste"; and in subsection fourteen, the words "after the closing of the poll" are hereby omitted, and the words "after receiving the returns from all the polling-places" substituted therefor. 10

(16.) Eighth Schedule, Form A and Form B: The words "or shearer" are hereby inserted after "commercial traveller" (within brackets).

Principal Act to be printed as amended.

4. In all copies of the principal Act printed by the Government Printer after the passing of this Act, the words directed by this Act to be omitted shall be omitted, and the words so directed to be added shall be added, and the enactments respectively directed by this Act to be substituted for any section or sections in the principal Act shall be printed therein in lieu of such section or sections. And reference shall be made in the margin to the sections of this Act by which such amendments are respectively made. 15 20

Repeal.

5. "The Electoral Law Amendment Act, 1893," is hereby repealed.