

Hon. Mr. McKenzie.

## LAND BOARDS ELECTION.

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### A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Periodical Election of Land Boards. 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 Land Boards Election Act, 1892." Short Title.

2. This Act shall be read as part of "The Land Act, 1892" (hereinafter referred to as "the said Act"), and, notwithstanding anything contained in the said Act, any Land Board constituted under any of the Acts repealed by the said Act shall continue in office until their successors, elected in manner as hereafter provided, shall come into office; and every act, matter, or thing required to be done or performed by any Land Board under this Act may be respectively done and performed by each such Board as if it had been elected or appointed under this Act. Act to be read with Land Act.

3. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.  
"Elector" means an elector as defined in "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1881:"

20 "General election" means a general election as defined in "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1881:"

"Board" means the Board elected under this Act, and wherever mentioned in the said Act shall mean and include the Board holding office at the time of the passing of this Act.

25 4. For each land district constituted under the said Act there shall be a Land Board, to be called the "Land Board of [name of district]," which shall consist of the Commissioner of Crown Lands Land Boards to be elected at each general election.

of the district and not less than three nor more than four other members, all of whom, excepting the Commissioner of Crown Lands, shall be elected simultaneously with and in the same manner as members of the House of Representatives are periodically elected at every general election.

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Number of members  
of Boards.

5. At every such election as aforesaid there shall be elected, in manner as hereinafter mentioned, for each of the Land Districts of Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago four Land Board members, and for each of the Land Districts of Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Southland, Marlborough, and Westland three members.

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Qualification of  
electors and  
members.

6. Every person qualified as an elector under "The Qualification of Electors Act, 1879," to vote at any election of members of the House of Representatives shall be qualified to vote at elections for members of the Land Board of the land district within which such person resides; and every such person, and no other person, shall be eligible to be a member of a Land Board. Any member retiring from office as a member of a Board shall, if qualified, be eligible for re-election.

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Regulation of  
Elections Act incor-  
porated.

7. For the purposes of this Act, so much of "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1881," and all amendments thereof, are hereby incorporated with this Act, and shall be read, *mutatis mutandis*, for the nomination of candidates for election as members of Land Boards and for the conduct of such elections, the polling thereat, and the declaration of the result of such elections, as if the words "members of Land Boards" had been originally inserted therein, in lieu of the words "members of the House of Representatives" wherever the latter occur.

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Electoral districts  
to be the same as  
under Representa-  
tion Act.

8. (1.) Every electoral district constituted under "The Representation Act, 1887," within any land district shall be an electoral district for the purpose of the elections herein mentioned, and, in cases where the boundaries of such land districts intersect or divide any electoral district as herein first mentioned, each elector within any severed electoral district shall be entitled to vote for the election of a Land Board member for the land district in which he resides.

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Electoral rolls.

(2.) The electoral rolls for the time being in force under "The Registration of Electors Act, 1879," shall be the rolls for the election of members of the Land Boards.

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allot-papers.

(3.) The Returning Officer of every electoral district shall prepare separate ballot-papers for use in the election of members of the Land Board, and such ballot-papers shall differ from the ballot-papers in use for the election of members of the House of Representatives either in the colours of the paper or the ink, or in such other sufficient manner as to be readily distinguished.

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Special rolls to be  
formed for divided  
districts.

9. Every Registrar of Electors under the last-mentioned Act is hereby required to make up special rolls for such portions of electoral districts as may be within one or more land districts, by placing a distinguishing mark against the name of every elector in every portion of his electoral district which is outside of the land district in which the major part of his electoral district is comprised, and shall place all such names in a separate list headed "List of Electors of the

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Electoral District qualified to vote for the Election of Members of the Land Board of the Land District," and shall for-

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ward such list, signed by him, to the Registrar of Electors of the nearest electoral district comprised within such last-mentioned land district.

5 The last-mentioned Registrar shall deal with such list in every way as if it were a supplementary roll of electors of the district, but for the election only of members of Land Boards; and the Registrar first mentioned in this section shall not allow any elector against whose name the aforesaid distinguishing mark has been placed to vote in his district for the election of members of Land Boards.

10 10. The members elected for the several districts to be members of the Land Board thereof shall come into office; and their respective predecessors in office shall retire therefrom, on the day appointed under "The Regulation of Elections Act, 1881," for the return of the writs at a general election of members of the House of Representatives.

Term of office.

15 11. In the event of no members or not a sufficiency of members of any Land Board being elected at any election, the Governor shall appoint so many persons as shall be necessary to complete the number of members of such Board; and all such persons shall come into office on their appointment, and shall, for all purposes of this Act, be deemed to be elected members.

On failure to elect, Governor to appoint members.

20 12. The Commissioner of Crown Lands of each district shall be Chairman of the Board, and shall have a casting-vote on all questions and matters before the Board, and, in the absence of the said Commissioner from any meeting, the members present shall, out of the members present, select a Chairman, who shall during such absence of the Commissioner from the meeting have all the powers of the said Commissioner.

Commissioner of Crown Lands to be Chairman and have casting-vote.

25 13. If any member shall, by writing addressed to the Commissioner, resign his office, or die, or become of unsound mind, or be adjudicated a bankrupt or insolvent, or take the benefit of or be brought under the operation of any Act relating to bankruptcy or insolvent debtors, or be convicted of felony or any infamous crime, or be guilty of any fraudulent conduct which in the opinion of the Governor shall render him unfit for the office, or be absent without sufficient cause from three successive ordinary sittings of the Board without the leave of the Board, or otherwise become incapacitated to act, his seat at the Board shall be thereby vacated.

Vacancies in Board.

30 The Commissioner shall forthwith notify every vacancy to the Governor as it occurs, who shall appoint such duly-qualified person as he shall think fit to supply such vacancy, who shall hold office only for the residue of the term of office of his predecessor.

35 14. Every Land Board constituted under the provisions of this Act shall have all the duties, powers, and authorities in every respect which are conferred upon Land Boards by this Act or the said Act.

Every Board to have same powers.

40 Every Land Board shall be deemed to be duly constituted, and may enter into office and proceed to the despatch of business, when a sufficient number of members to form a quorum have been elected.

45 15. No member of any Land Board shall be personally liable in any action, suit, or other proceeding, except for his own act and deed, nor shall he be liable for anything done by him in the execution of his office, except in cases where he shall be guilty of wilful neglect or default.

Member not personally liable.

Payment of  
members.

16. Out of any moneys that may from time to time be appropriated for that purpose by the General Assembly, there shall be paid to every member of any Land Board on account of his attendance at any meeting of the Board, or for inspecting any land when requested so to do by a resolution of the Board, any money expended by him 5  
in payment for coach, railway, steamboat, or other conveyance, or in lieu thereof an allowance to be fixed by the Board not exceeding sixpence per mile, computed for one way only of the distance over which he may have to travel; and also a sum of ten shillings per day for every day during which he may be necessarily absent from his 10  
residence for either of the purposes aforesaid.

Such payments for travelling-expenses shall be made only in the case of members residing at a distance exceeding three miles from the place of meeting, and no payments for travelling on any railway shall be allowed to any person who holds a free pass for such 15  
railway.

No member who shall receive any payment or travelling-expenses shall thereby become or be disqualified from a seat in the General Assembly, or become liable to any penalty under any Dis-qualification Act for the time being in force. 20

Regulations.

17. The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council, make, alter, or repeal such regulations as may be required for the purpose of conducting or completing any election of members of Land Boards under this Act, and may by any such regulations rectify any mistake or omission occurring in or about any such election. 25