

Mr. W. Hutchison.

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE ENLARGEMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to enlarge the Franchise at Municipal Elections.

Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to enlarge the municipal franchise in boroughs:

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

Preamble.

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Municipal Franchise Enlargement Act, 1894."

Short Title.

10 2. The word "ratepayer" for the purposes of this Act means any man or woman not resident in the borough who is the owner, leaseholder, or tenant of any land or buildings on which he or she pays rates, and on which there is no resident householder.

Interpretation.

15 The word "householder" when used in this Act means every man and woman of the full age of twenty-one years who has on the thirty-first day of March in any year been continuously for a period of at least *twelve* months an inhabitant of any one borough, and who has been the occupier, either as owner, leaseholder, or tenant—and in the case of a woman in her own right—of a dwellinghouse for at

20 least *three* months in the same borough.

3. Every ratepayer and householder as above described shall be entitled to be enrolled upon the roll next hereinafter directed to be prepared for the borough; or if and when the borough is divided into wards, for the ward in which he or she is a householder; and when enrolled to vote at every election of Councillors within that borough or ward.

Householders and certain ratepayers to vote for Councillors.

No person shall in any case have more than one vote.

No.44—1.

Rolls to be prepared

4. The Town Clerk of every borough shall, on or before the seventh day of April in each year, prepare a roll, to be called the "householders' roll," of all the householders in the borough of which he is Clerk, in the alphabetical order of surnames; or, if the borough be divided into wards, of all the householders in each ward respectively. 5

The Town Clerk shall add, as an appendix to the above roll, the names of all the ratepayers entitled to vote as aforesaid.

Persons entitled to vote for Mayor.

5. Every householder and every person not being a householder whose name appears upon the roll for the electoral district under "The Electoral Act, 1893," comprising the borough, and who is also a *bonâ fide* resident in the borough, shall be entitled to be enrolled upon the roll next hereinafter directed to be prepared of the borough in which he or she is a householder or resident elector, and when enrolled to vote at every election of a Mayor within the same borough. 10 15

Separate mayoral rolls.

6. The Town Clerk of every borough shall, on or before the fourth Wednesday of September in each year, prepare a separate roll, to be called the "mayoral roll," of the persons specified in the *last* section in alphabetical order of surnames. 20

Registrar of Electors to furnish rolls.

7. The Registrar of Electors for the electoral district comprising a borough under "The Electoral Act, 1893," shall, on request, furnish the Town Clerk with such certified copies of the printed and unprinted roll of electors of his electoral district up till the fourth Wednesday of September in each year, and such further particulars in his possession as may be required to assist the Town Clerk in compiling the mayoral roll. 25

Certain provisions of Municipal Corporations Act to apply.

8. The provisions of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886," sections sixty-six to sixty-nine inclusive, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the mayoral roll, except as follows: The time for sending in objections shall be the third Wednesday in October; the time for hearing such objections shall be between the first and fifteenth days of December, both inclusive, to be appointed by the Mayor; and the time for the roll coming into force shall be the sixteenth day of December in each year. 30 35

Repeal of certain sections of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886."

9. The last paragraph of section seventy-two of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886," and all other provisions of the same Act conflicting with this Act, are hereby repealed.

Signification of word "burgesses."

The word "burgesses" used in section seventy-seven of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886," shall be understood to mean the persons upon the mayoral roll under this Act. 40

Act to be read with "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886."

10. This Act shall be read with "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886"; but after the passing of this Act every election for a Councillor or Mayor shall be held under the franchise constituted by this Act. 45

Saving.

Nothing herein contained shall alter or affect the voting of ratepayers under "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1886," other than at elections.