

New Parliament.]

[AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE OF WHOLE HOUSE, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1879.]

Hon. Mr. Hall.

Qualification of Electors.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Qualification of electors. (1.) Freehold. (2.) Residential. (3.) Interpretation of "registration." (4.) Maoris excepted. (5.) Aliens, &c., disqualified.</p> <p>3. Registered elector qualified as a member.</p> | <p>4. Member ceasing to be elector not disqualified from sitting.</p> <p>5. Holders of miners' rights may vote upon their existing qualification during the year 1880.</p> <p>6.</p> <p>7.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to define the Qualification of Electors of Members of the House of Representatives. 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 Qualification of Electors Act, 1879." Short Title.

2. The members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen in every electoral district appointed for that purpose by the votes of the inhabitants of New Zealand who shall possess within the district the qualifications defined by this Act, that is to say,— Qualification of electors.

(1.) Every ~~man~~ *person* of the age of twenty-one years or upwards having a freehold estate in possession situate within the electoral district for which the vote is to be given of the value of twenty-five pounds, whether subject to incumbrances or not, and of or to which he has been seized or entitled either at law or in equity, for at least *six* calendar months next before the registration of his vote; ~~and~~, or, Freehold.

(2.) Every *man of the age of twenty-one years or upwards* who has resided for *one* year in the colony and in the electoral district for which he claims to vote during the six months immediately preceding the registration of his vote, and is not registered in respect of a freehold qualification under this Act in respect of the same district, is entitled to be registered as an elector and to vote at the election of members for such district for the House of Representatives. Residential.

(3.) The expression "registration of his vote" shall respectively mean the day on which any person lodges his claim to vote with the Registration Officer, or the day on which the Registration Officer places the name of any Interpretation of "registration."

person on any electoral roll, under the provisions of any Act for the time being in force for the registration of electors.

Maoris excepted.

- (4.) ~~Aboriginal native inhabitants of New Zealand, including half-castes living as members of a Native tribe, according to their customs and usages, and male descendants of such half-castes by aboriginal native women, are not qualified to be registered as electors under this Act, but may be registered as electors under an Act intended to be passed in this session of Parliament conferring special representation upon the Maori people.~~

New subsection.

- (4.) Every male Maori of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, whose name is enrolled upon a ratepayers' roll in force within the electoral district in respect of which he claims to vote, or who is seized in severalty of a freehold estate of the value of twenty-five pounds or upwards, is entitled to be registered as an elector and to vote at the elections of members for such districts for the House of Representatives; but no such Maori shall be entitled to be registered as an elector, or to vote at any such election, in respect of any other qualification under this Act.

Aliens, &c., disqualified.

- (5.) No alien nor person attainted or convicted of any treason felony or infamous offence within any part of Her Majesty's dominions, unless he shall have received a free pardon, or shall have undergone the sentence or punishment to which he shall have been adjudged for such offence, shall be entitled to be registered: *Provided always that every person who may in future be convicted of any of the before-mentioned offences shall, unless he has received a free pardon, have his name erased from every electoral roll of the colony, and shall be not entitled to have such name placed on any electoral roll within twelve months after he has undergone the sentence or punishment to which he shall be adjudged for such offence.*

Registered elector qualified as a member.

3. Every man registered as an elector, and not coming within the meaning of section two of "*The Public Offenders Disqualification Act, 1867*," but no other person, is qualified to be elected a member of the House of Representatives for any electoral district within the colony.

Member ceasing to be elector not disqualified from sitting.

4. Any member of the House of Representatives ceasing to be on the register as an elector shall not from that cause only be disqualified from continuing such member.

Holders of miners' rights may vote upon their existing qualification during the year 1880.

5. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, until the electoral rolls to be framed under an Act intended to be passed in the present session shall come into force, all persons who may be qualified to vote at any election as holders of miners' rights shall continue to have and may exercise the like electoral privileges which they are entitled to have and exercise as the holders of such miners' rights; the meaning hereof being that until the date hereinbefore mentioned none of the persons to whom this section refers shall be deprived of any privileges which but for this Act they would have had or enjoyed.

New clauses.

6. The word "Maori" in this Act means an aboriginal native inhabitant of New Zealand, and includes any half-caste living as a member of a Native tribe, according to their customs and usages, and any descendant of such half-caste by a Maori woman.

7. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect any right or privilege conferred upon or granted to Maoris under "*The Maori Representation Act, 1867*," or any Act amending or continuing the same.