

[AS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE,  
6TH AUGUST, 1889.]

Hon. Mr. Hislop.

REPRESENTATION ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

- Title.
- 1. Short Title.
- 2. Section 3 of principal Act amended.
- 3. Construction of principal Act.

- 4. No elector to vote in more than one district.
- 5. Returning Officer to be satisfied of person's right to vote.
- 6. Penalty.
- 7. Amendment of section 5 of principal Act.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Representation Act, 1887."

Title.

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

5     1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Representation Act Amendment Act, 1889." Short Title.

2. Subsections two, three, four, and five of section three of "The Representation Act, 1887" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), are hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following shall be substituted, namely:— Section 3 of principal Act amended.

10     (2.) In computing for the purposes of this Act the population of the colony, there shall be added twenty-eight per centum to the population not contained in any city, borough, or town district which contains a population of over two thousand.

15     (4.) The total population of the colony (other than Maoris), with the addition aforesaid, shall be divided by the number of members, and the quotient thus obtained shall be the quota.

20     (5.) There shall be four city electoral districts, to be called respectively Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and to be so defined as to contain the whole or, if there shall be a greater population than is required, a part of such cities respectively; and there shall be assigned to each of them three members.

25     The extent of each of the said city electoral districts shall respectively be such that the population thereof shall, subject to the provisions as to allowance hereinafter specified, be three times the quota.

In order to make up any city electoral district where the city itself shall not include a sufficient population, there may be included with the city a part or parts or the whole of such boroughs and town districts adjacent to the said city as, in the opinion of the Commissioners, can be most conveniently included with the same; and, if there shall not be sufficient population within such boroughs and town districts, then there may be included such areas of the adjacent or surrounding country as can, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be most conveniently included.

The remainder of the colony shall be divided into as many districts as there are other members (not Maori members) to be returned.

The extent of such last-mentioned electoral districts shall respectively be such that one member shall be assigned to each district, and that at the time of making such division the population thereof, after making the addition aforesaid, shall, subject to the provisions as to the allowance hereinafter contained, be equal to the quota.

In forming the several districts due consideration shall be given to the present boundaries of electoral districts, to community of interest, facilities of communication, and topographical features.

Where, in the opinion of the Commissioners, districts cannot be formed consistently with the above considerations so as to contain exactly the quota, or a multiple of the same, as the case may require, the Commissioners may, for each member to be elected, make an allowance by way of addition or deduction of population to the extent of seven hundred and fifty: Provided always that the Commissioners shall not make any such addition to or deduction from any city electoral district, or to or from any other district wholly composed of population to which the addition of twenty-eight per centum has not been made, of more than one hundred: Provided further that, in the case of a district which being a city electoral district or a district adjoining a city electoral district is partly composed of population, the addition or deduction which may be made shall not be greater than a number which will bear the same ratio to seven hundred and fifty that the population to which the addition of twenty-eight per centum has been made within such district after such addition is made bears to the quota.

3. The principal Act and any Act amending the same shall, as from the commencement of this Act, take effect subject to the substitutions required by this Act.

4. From and after the passing of this Act no elector shall at any election of members of the House of Representatives vote in respect of more than one electorate, and any person voting in respect of more than one electorate shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

5. The Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer may, and if so required by any scrutineer shall, at any election, before allowing any person to vote, put to such person the following question: "Have you already voted at the present election in any electoral district?" and, unless such person answers such question in the nega-

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tive, he shall not be permitted to vote, and any person giving a false answer to such question shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

6. Any person guilty of an offence under this Act shall be liable, on conviction before two Justices of the Peace, to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds. Penalty.

7. Section five of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding, after the word "report" in the sixth line of the said clause, the following words: "together with properly-authenticated maps of the electoral districts fixed by such report." Amendment of section 5 of principal Act.