

Mr. O'Regan.

REFERENDUM.

ANALYSIS.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Title. | 5. Votes, how taken. |
| Preamble | 6. Votes may be taken at post-offices. |
| 1. Short Title. | 7. Provisions of the Electoral and Corrupt Practices Acts to apply. |
| 2. Question, how referred. | 8. Result, how certified. |
| 3. Speakers to certify. | 9. If affirmative, how dealt with. |
| 4. Certificate gazetted. | |

A BILL INTITLED

AN ACT to refer to the Electors of the Colony certain Questions or Bills for their decision. Title.

WHEREAS it is desirable to refer certain questions to the electors of the colony, and to provide a system by which a direct answer, either in the affirmative or negative, may be obtained from the electors on such questions : Preamble.

BE IT THEREFORE 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 Referendum Act, 1894." Short Title.

2. Whenever both Houses of the General Assembly shall have passed a resolution in favour of submitting any question to the vote of the electors, or whenever the House of Representatives shall have passed a resolution in favour of referring any measure which has been twice passed by such House, and twice rejected by the Legislative Council, to a vote of the electors, then such reference shall be made in the manner hereinafter provided. Question, how referred.

3. The Speaker of the Legislative Council, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or both Speakers, shall, whenever a resolution has been passed as aforesaid, send a certificate thereof to the Colonial Secretary. Speakers to certify.

4. The Colonial Secretary shall on receipt of such certificate duly publish the same in the *New Zealand Gazette*, and shall fix a day, not being earlier than two months and not later than six months after receipt of such certificate, for the taking of the vote on such resolution. Due notice of the taking of such vote shall be given in the *New Zealand Gazette* and also by advertisement, and by notice exhibited at every post-office and every school-building in the colony : Certificate gazetted.

Provided that any accidental omission to make such notification at

any particular post-office or post-offices, school-house or school-houses, shall not invalidate any poll, unless it shall be shown that such omission has materially affected the result of such poll.

Votes, how taken.

5. The vote shall be taken at every polling-place in the colony whereat votes are taken for the election of members of the House of Representatives, and before Returning Officers presiding at such places, and may be taken on the same day as a general or licensing election. 5

Votes may be taken at post-offices.

6. In lieu of taking the vote in the manner in the foregoing section prescribed, it may be taken at the post-offices of the colony, and the postmasters shall fulfil the duties of Returning Officers. In such case the poll shall remain open for one week; and the Governor may issue regulations providing for the taking thereof, and, *mutatis mutandis*, all the provisions regulating the taking of the local option poll shall apply thereto. 10 15

Provisions of the Electoral and Corrupt Practices Acts to apply.

7. All the provisions of the Electoral and Corrupt Practices Acts shall, so far as applicable, be in force in regard to any poll taken under this Act.

Result, how certified.

8. The result of the vote at each polling-place shall be duly certified by the Returning Officer thereat, and such certificate and all the voting-papers, duly sealed up, shall be at once forwarded to the Clerk of Parliaments, and when he shall have received all the certificates he shall publish the result of the vote in the *New Zealand Gazette*. The voting-papers shall be kept by the Clerk of Parliaments for one year. 20 25

If affirmative, how dealt with.

9. If the vote be in favour of any Bill submitted, then such Bill shall become law on a date to be named by the Governor in a Proclamation to that effect. If the vote be in favour of any alteration of the law or proposal submitted otherwise than by Bill, then it shall be the duty of the Colonial Secretary to at once prepare a Bill to give effect to such alteration or proposal, and to introduce the same either in the Legislative Council or in the House of Representatives within ten days of the opening of the session of Parliament held next after such vote shall have been given. 30