

Hon. Mr. Allen.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS REFERENDUM.

ANALYSIS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Title.   |   |
| 1. Short Title.  | 5. Publication of result of poll, and notification to Minister of Education.                      |
| 2. Poll to be taken on day of next general election.   | 6. Minister to have statement of result prepared and gazetted, and to lay same before Parliament. |
| 3. Question to be submitted, and form of voting-paper. | Schedule.   |
| 4. Manner of taking poll.                              |   |

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to refer to the Electors of New Zealand a certain Question respecting Religious Instruction in Schools. Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Religious Instruction in Schools Referendum Act, 1914. Short Title.

2. (1.) On the day appointed for the taking of the poll (hereinafter called the electoral poll) of the electors for the return of members of the House of Representatives at the first general election taken after the commencement of this Act, and simultaneously therewith, a poll (hereinafter called the referendum poll) of the electors of each electoral district shall also be taken upon the question to be submitted to them under this Act. Poll to be taken on day of next general election.

(2.) The referendum poll shall be taken in every district, notwithstanding that in any district no electoral poll may be required to be taken for such election as aforesaid.

3. At the referendum poll the said question shall be submitted in the form set forth in the Schedule to this Act. Question to be submitted, and form of voting-paper.

4. (1.) The Returning Officer of each electoral district shall, upon the day appointed, proceed to take the referendum poll in the manner provided by the Legislature Act, 1908, for taking the electoral poll, and shall appoint such Deputy Returning Officers and other officers as he deems necessary, and shall provide voting-papers and all other things necessary for taking the said poll. Manner of taking poll.

(2.) Every person who, at the time when the referendum poll is taken, is entitled to vote at the electoral poll shall be entitled to one vote at the referendum poll.

(3.) All the provisions of the Legislature Act, 1908, as regards taking a poll shall, with the necessary modifications, apply to the taking of the referendum poll under this Act.

Publication of  
result of poll, and  
notification to  
Minister of  
Education.

5. As soon as practicable after the result of the referendum poll has been ascertained the Returning Officer shall give public notice of the total number of valid votes recorded, the number of valid votes respectively recorded for and against the said question, and the number of informal votes, and shall also forward to the Minister of Education a statement of the same particulars. 5

Minister to have  
statement of result  
prepared and  
gazetted, and to lay  
same before  
Parliament.

6. As soon as conveniently may be after the Minister has received the said statements from the Returning Officers of all the electoral districts he shall cause a statement to be prepared showing the particulars mentioned in the *last preceding* section in respect of each electoral district, and also the total number of valid votes respectively recorded for and against the said question in all the electoral districts, and the total number of informal votes. Such statement shall be published in the *Gazette*, and shall be laid before Parliament on the first day of its session in the year nineteen hundred and fifteen. 10 15

Schedule.

## SCHEDULE.

### VOTING-PAPER.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS REFERENDUM.

##### *Scheme of Instruction.*

PROVISION to be made for the reading in public schools, within school hours, of selected Bible lessons from a reading-book to be provided by the Education Department. Such reading to be conducted under the supervision of the public-school teacher, but no sectarian teaching to be allowed.

Provision to be made for religious instruction to be given within school hours to children by a minister of their own denomination or by an accredited substitute.

Any parent to have the right, if he chooses so to do, to withdraw his child from the Bible-reading, or from the religious instruction, or from both.

I vote in favour of the above system.

I vote against the above system.

##### *Directions.*

The voter must strike out the proposal for which he does not wish to vote.

If the voter strikes out both or fails to strike out one of the proposals, the voting-paper will be void, and his vote will not be recorded.

The voting-paper so marked is to be dropped by the voter into the separate ballot-box prepared for it, and not into the same box as that into which he drops his electoral ballot-paper.

The voter is not allowed to take this voting-paper out of the polling-booth.