

Supplementary Order Paper.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 4th Day of November, 1919.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCES VOTING BILL (No. 2).

Hon. Sir FRANCIS BELL, in Committee, to move the following amendments:—

Title: To add the following words: “and to make other general Provisions relating to Electoral Rights.”

Short Title: To insert, after the word “Voting” in line 8, the words “and Electoral Rights Amendment.”

To insert, immediately before clause 2, the following heading:—

PART I.

VOTING IN NEW ZEALAND BY EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

Clause 2: To insert the words “this Part of” before the words “this Act” in line 11; to omit the words “recently returned” before the word “member” in line 12; to omit all words after the figures “1915” in line 15, and substitute the words “whether he has been discharged from that Force or not.”

Clause 3: To omit the words “recently returned” before the word “member” in line 18; to insert, after the word “Force” in line 18, the words “within the meaning of this Part of this Act.”

Clause 4: To add the following subclause:—

(3.) Every person who, being qualified to vote as an elector of any electoral district, votes outside the boundaries of that district as herein provided is hereinafter in this Part of this Act referred to as an absent voter.

Clause 5, subclause (1): To omit the words “recently returned” before the word “member” in line 21; to omit the words “a recently returned member of an Expeditionary Force” in lines 24 and 25, and substitute the words “an absent voter”; to insert, before the words “this Act” in line 25, the words “this Part of”; to omit the words “dated not earlier than the first day of September, nineteen hundred and nineteen,” in lines 29 and 30; to omit the words “recently returned” before the word “member” in line 32; to insert the words “this Part of” before the words “this Act” in line 33.

Clause 5, subclause (2): To omit all words after the word “initials” in line 36, and substitute the words “and, in the case of absent voters, shall enter thereon the name of the district for which the voter has voted.”

Clause 6 : To insert, before the words " this Act " in line 42, the words " this Part of."

Clause 7 : To omit the words " recently returned " before the word " member " in line 47 ; to insert, before the words " this Act " in line 48, the words " this Part of " ; to omit the words " elector of any district other than the district within which he wishes to vote," and substitute the words " an absent voter " ; to omit the words " for the election of a member of Parliament for the first-mentioned district and for the licensing poll " in lines 50 and 51.

Clause 8, subclause (1) : To insert, before the words " this Act " in line 5, the words " this Part of " ; to omit the words " recently returned " before the word " member " in line 6.

Clause 8, subclause (2) : To insert, before the words " this Act " in line 13, the words " this Part of."

Clause 9 : To omit the clause.

Clause 10 : To insert, before the words " this Act " in line 21, the words " this Part of."

To add the following provisions :—

PART II.

VOTING OUT OF NEW ZEALAND ON LICENSING PROPOSALS.

Interpretation.

A. For the purposes of this Part of this Act the expression " absent member of an Expeditionary Force " means a person who has served beyond the seas as a member of an Expeditionary Force under the Expeditionary Forces Act, 1915, and who still remains a member of that Force on the date of the next general election of members of Parliament, and who has not on or before that date returned to New Zealand.

Absent members of Expeditionary Force to vote on licensing proposals.

B. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act, every absent member of an Expeditionary Force shall be entitled to vote, in manner provided by regulations under this Act, on the proposals to be submitted at the licensing poll pursuant to section fifty-six of the Licensing Amendment Act, 1918.

Result of licensing poll not to be finally declared until votes of absent members of Expeditionary Force taken into account.

C. Notwithstanding anything in any other Act, no proposal submitted at the licensing poll shall be declared to be carried until the votes of absent members of the Expeditionary Force have been taken into account.

PART III.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO ELECTORAL RIGHTS.

Classes of persons entitled to vote after making declaration, though not registered as electors.

D. (1.) The following classes of persons, not being registered as electors of any district, may, on making a declaration in the prescribed form that they are qualified to be enrolled as electors, vote as electors of the district in which they are resident, namely :—

(a.) Any person whose name is ruled out on any certified copy of the roll supplied to the Returning Officer pursuant to section twenty-four of the Legislature Amendment Act, 1910 ; or

(b.) Any person who voted as a registered elector at the last preceding election for the district in which his place of residence is situated, and whose name does not appear on the roll for that district ; or

(c.) Any person who having applied for enrolment as an elector, and having been informed by the Registrar that he has been enrolled, has not been so enrolled.

(2.) Every person who votes under the authority of this section shall enclose his voting-papers in an envelope, which shall be sealed by the voter in the presence of the Deputy Returning Officer. The envelope and declaration shall be numbered by the Deputy Returning Officer, and the voting-papers shall then be deposited by the elector in the ballot-box.

(3.) After the close of the poll the declarations, with the relative voting-papers, shall be forwarded to the Returning Officer for verification, and the votes shall be counted only if the Returning Officer is satisfied that the declarations have been properly made.

(4.) Where the Returning Officer is satisfied that a declaration has been properly made, he shall forward the same to the Registrar for the district, who shall thereupon take all necessary steps for the registration of the declarant as an elector.

(5.) Every person who knowingly and wilfully makes a false statement in any declaration under this section is liable to a fine of *fifty* pounds.

(6.) Section eighteen of the Legislature Amendment Act, 1914, and the form numbered (1) in the Schedule to that Act are hereby repealed.

Registration as electors of persons who have been absent from New Zealand because of war conditions.

E. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Legislature Act, 1908, every person being a resident of New Zealand, who has been absent from New Zealand at any time during the period of the war and who satisfies the Registrar that his return to New Zealand was delayed by reason of the war, or that while so absent from New Zealand he was engaged on work having relation to the war shall, if otherwise qualified, be entitled to be registered as an elector of the district in which he is resident, notwithstanding that he may not have been resident in New Zealand for one year or resident in that electoral district for one month immediately preceding the date of his claim for enrolment.

Seamen's qualifications.

F. Section eighty-seven of the Legislature Act, 1908, is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (a) all words after the word "ship," and substituting the words "trading exclusively within the territorial waters of New Zealand, or in any ship trading to New Zealand ports at intervals of not more than three months."

Persons resident on hulks to be deemed to be resident in any district contiguous to harbour.

G. For the purposes of the Legislature Act, 1908, every person resident on a hulk permanently located in any harbour of New Zealand shall be deemed to be, and at all times while so resident to have been, resident in the electoral districts any part of which is contiguous to the waters of the harbour, and may, if otherwise qualified to be enrolled as an elector, be registered as an elector of such one of those districts as he may elect.

Absent voters' permits and electors' rights may be issued at any time before day of poll.

H. (1.) Section forty of the Legislature Amendment Act, 1910, (relating to the issue of voting-permits) is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the words "the issue of the writ," and substituting the words "the date of the poll."

(2.) Subsection four of section forty of the Legislature Amendment Act, 1910, is hereby amended by omitting all words after the words "beginning with the number one."

(3.) Subsection six of section eighty-nine of the Legislature Act, 1908, is hereby repealed.

(4.) Section ninety-six of the Legislature Act, 1908, is hereby amended by omitting the words "shall not," and substituting the word "may"; and by omitting all words after the words "in any district," and substituting the words "at any time during the six months preceding the date of the poll."

PART IV.

GENERAL.

Regulations.

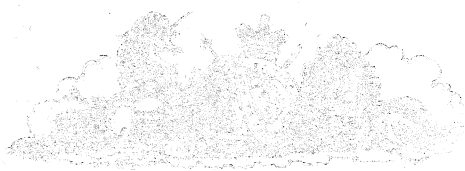
I. (1.) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make all such regulations as he deems necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2.) With respect to the votes of absent members of an Expeditionary Force on the proposals to be submitted at the licensing poll, as hereinbefore provided, such regulations may provide for the taking of such votes on a day or days to be specified in such notice, and it shall not be necessary to take such votes on the day appointed for the holding of the general election in New Zealand or to take all such votes on the same day.

Validity of elections or licensing poll not affected by anything done or omitted to be done under this Act.

J. The validity of any election or of any licensing poll shall not be questioned on the ground that anything required to be done by this Act has been irregularly done, or has been omitted to be done, or that for any reason it has been found impracticable for any absent member of an Expeditionary Force to vote, or for the vote of any such member to be counted, or that any person who has voted under this Act was not entitled to vote.

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