

Supplementary Order Paper.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, the 21st Day of November, 1913.

LEGISLATURE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. HINDMARSH, in Committee, to move the following new clauses :—

Return of expenses
of various
organizations.

A. (1.) Every trade-union (registered or unregistered), organization, association, league, or body of persons which has, or person who has, in connection with any election expended any money or incurred any expense—

(a.) On behalf of or in the interests of any candidate ; or

(b.) On behalf of or in the interests of any political party,—

shall, in accordance with this section, make a return of the moneys so expended or expenses so incurred, and the names and addresses of the persons receiving such moneys, and the purposes for which any such moneys were paid or expended or agreed to be paid.

(2.) Every trade-union (registered or unregistered), organization, association, league, or body of persons which has, and every person who has, in connection with any election expended or promised to pay any money, or agreed or promised to pay any money, or incurred any expense in printing, publishing, or issuing electoral advertisements or notices, or procuring the insertion in any newspaper of any advertisement, article, or report, or matter intended or calculated to affect the result of the election shall, in accordance with this section, make a return of the money so expended or expense so incurred.

(3.) The return shall be signed and declared to before a Justice of the Peace by the president or chairman and the secretary or other officer of the trade-union (registered or unregistered), organization, association, league, or body of persons, or by the person concerned, and shall contain particulars of the money expended or incurred, and the names and addresses and occupations of the persons to whom such moneys were actually paid, and shall be filed with the Returning Officer or the electorate in which the election took place within seven weeks after the result of the election has been declared.

(4.) If any trade-union (registered or unregistered), organization, association, league, or body of persons fails to comply with this section, every person who was an officer thereof at the time the money was expended or expense incurred shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *fifty* pounds.

(5.) If any person fails to comply with this section he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *fifty* pounds.

(6.) Any person who wilfully makes any untrue statement in any return under this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *one* hundred pounds or to imprisonment not exceeding *six* months.

(7.) The Chief Electoral Officer may, by notice in writing, require the president or chairman and the secretary or other officer of any trade-union (registered or unregistered), organization, association, league, or body of persons, or any person, within such time (not being less than one month) as is specified in the notice, to make a return in accordance with this section, or of any moneys expended or expenses incurred in respect of which a return is required to be

made under subsection *one* or subsection *two* of this section, and the president or chairman and secretary, or other officer or person, who neglects or refuses to comply with the notice shall be guilty of an offence, and liable to a fine not exceeding *five* hundred pounds and not less than *one* hundred pounds, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding *six* months.

(8.) Every return filed in pursuance of this section shall, subject to the regulations, be open to public inspection.

B: (1.) The proprietor or publisher of a newspaper published in the Dominion of New Zealand shall, in accordance with this section, make or cause to be made a return setting out the amount of electoral matter in connection with the election inserted in his newspaper in respect of which payment was or is to be made, the space occupied by such electoral matter, the amount of money paid or owing to him in respect of such electoral matter, and the names and addresses of the trade-unions (registered or unregistered), organizations, associations, leagues, bodies of persons, or persons authorizing the insertion thereof. Any proprietor of a newspaper committing a breach of this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *five* hundred pounds and not less than *one* hundred pounds, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding *twelve* months.

(2.) In this section electoral matter includes advertisements, articles, and other matter intended or calculated to affect the result of an election.

(3.) The return shall be signed by the person making it, and shall be declared to before a Justice of the Peace, and shall be filed with the Returning Officer for the electorate in which the newspaper is printed within twelve weeks after the result of the election has been declared.

(4.) Every return made in pursuance of this section shall, subject to the regulations, be open to public inspection.

C: (1.) The proprietor of every newspaper shall cause the word "advertisement" to be printed as a headline in letters not smaller than ten point or long primer to each article or paragraph in his newspaper containing electoral matter the insertion of which is to be paid for, or for which any reward or compensation or promise of reward or compensation is or is to be made. Any proprietor of a newspaper failing to comply with this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *five* hundred pounds.

(2.) The words "electoral matter" include all matter intended or calculated to affect the result of the election, and any report of the speech of a candidate if the report is or is to be paid for.

D: (1.) On and after the date of issue, and before the return of any writ for the election of a member of the House of Representatives, every article, report, letter, or other matter commenting upon any candidate or political party printed and published in any newspaper, circular, pamphlet, or "dodger" shall be signed by the author or authors, giving his or their true name and address or names and addresses at the end of the said article, report, letter, or other matter. If any person fails to comply with this section he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *fifty* pounds or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding *three* months.

(2.) Any newspaper editor or proprietor who permits, in any newspaper which he edits or owns, the publication of any unsigned article, report, letter, or other matter commenting upon any candidate or political party, or other issues being submitted to the electors after the issue and before the return of any writ for the election of a member of the House of Representatives shall be deemed guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *fifty* pounds.

Returns by
newspaper
proprietors.

Heading to electoral
advertisements.

Articles, comments,
&c., to be signed by
writer.