

Supplementary Order Paper.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, the 25th Day of November, 1913.

LEGISLATURE AMENDMENT BILL.

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

A. (1.) In any of the following cases any Bill or legislative proposals shall be referred to a poll of the electors of the Dominion (hereinafter termed a referendum), that is to say,—

- (a.) If a Bill passed by both Houses contains a provision that such Bill shall be reserved for the referendum; or
- (b.) If a resolution is passed by both Houses in favour of submitting to the referendum any legislative proposal (other than a Bill) set forth in such resolution; or
- (c.) If twenty-five thousand electors request by petition to Parliament that any Bill or legislative proposal named in such petition be submitted to the referendum—

then such Bill or proposal shall, in manner hereinafter directed, be referred to the vote of all the electors entitled to vote for the election of members of the House of Representatives.

(2.) Within seven days after the close of the session in which such Bill or resolution was passed by both Houses, a copy thereof, certified as correct by the Speaker of each House that passed the same, as the case may be, shall be transmitted to the Governor by the Clerk of Parliaments.

(3.) Forthwith upon receipt of such copy the Governor shall cause the same to be published in the *Gazette*, and in the same *Gazette* he shall appoint a day for the taking of a poll of the electors thereon.

(4.) The day so appointed shall be not sooner than twenty-eight nor later than ninety days after the close of such session, and if between those dates a general election for members of the House of Representatives occurs, then in such case the referendum poll shall be taken on the day of such general election.

(5.) A copy of every Bill submitted to the referendum shall be posted for public inspection in every post-office in the Dominion in a conspicuous place for fourteen days before the taking of the poll.

(6.) Subject to the provisions of this Act such poll shall be taken in each electoral district in the Dominion by the same Returning Officer, at the same polling-places, and in the same manner as in the case of a general election, and the provisions of the Legislature Act shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply accordingly.

(7.) For the purposes of every such poll the voting-papers shall be in the Form A in the Schedule hereto or to that effect.

(8.) The result of the poll in each electoral district shall be duly certified by the Returning Officer in the Form B in the Schedule hereto or to that effect, and he shall forward the same to the Clerk of Writs.

B. (1.) Forthwith upon receipt of the results of the poll in every electoral district the Clerk of Writs shall prepare and gazette a tabulated statement thereof showing for each electoral district, and for the whole Dominion, the total number of votes recorded for and against the Bill or proposal submitted to the referendum; and the total of informal votes; and shall declare such Bill or proposal to be approved or disapproved by the referendum accordingly as the majority of all the valid votes recorded throughout the Dominion is recorded for or against such Bill or proposal.

(2.) Such statement and declaration shall be in the Form C in the Schedule hereto or to that effect.

C. With respect to any Bill submitted to the referendum, the following provisions shall apply:—

(a.) Until the gazetting of the result of the poll, the Bill shall remain in the custody of the Clerk of Parliaments, and shall not be transmitted to the Governor.

(b.) If the Bill is approved by the referendum, then forthwith on the gazetting of the result of the poll the Bill shall be deemed to be for all purposes a Bill duly passed by the General Assembly in Parliament assembled in pursuance of the Constitution Act, and shall be treated and dealt with accordingly.

(c.) If the Bill is disapproved by the referendum, it shall be deemed to be a Bill rejected by Parliament in the session thereof next preceding the date of the poll, and shall be treated and dealt with accordingly.

D. With respect to any legislative proposal (other than a Bill) which is duly submitted by the referendum, the following provisions shall apply:—

(a.) If such proposal is approved by the referendum the Government shall, within ten days after the commencement of the next ensuing session of Parliament, introduce a Bill to give effect to such proposal.

(b.) If such proposal is disapproved by the referendum, it shall be deemed to be a resolution rejected by Parliament, and shall be treated and dealt with accordingly.

E. With respect to any Bill or other legislative proposal which has been submitted to the referendum, the following provisions shall apply:—

(a.) It shall not be again submitted for a period of three years after the gazetting of the result of the poll taken on the first submission unless at least ten per centum of all the electors on the electoral rolls at the date of the taking of the poll so request by petition to Parliament.

(b.) It shall not be again submitted unless the provisions of section four of this Act are complied with afresh.

F. Nothing in this Act shall apply to,—

(a.) Any Bill or other legislative proposal which deals with the construction or maintenance of public works of a purely local character, or with parliamentary procedure, or which the House of Representatives, by resolution, declares to be a matter of urgency; nor to

(b.) Any local or private Bill.

G. The Governor may from time to time by Order in Council gazetted make such regulations as he deems necessary for the proper taking of the poll under this Act, and generally for giving effect to this Act.

H. The Constitution Act and all other Acts that are in any way in conflict with this Act are hereby modified or repealed in so far as such conflict exists, but not further or otherwise:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall operate or be construed to affect such of the provisions of the Constitution Act as it is not competent for Parliament to alter.

SCHEDULE.

FORM A.

Voting-paper.

On the following Bill (or other legislative proposal) submitted to the referendum under the Legislature Amendment Act, 1913, namely:—

1. I vote for the above Bill (or proposal).
2. I vote against the above Bill (or proposal).

N.B.—The voter must strike out the line marked “2” if he wishes to vote for the Bill (or proposal), and line “1” if he wishes to vote against it. If he strikes out both lines, or neglects to strike out one of them, the voting-paper will be informal and void.

FORM B.

Returning Officer's Certificate of Result of Poll.

Referendum under the Legislature Amendment Act, 1913.

I CERTIFY that the following is a correct statement of the result of the poll taken in the Electoral District of _____, on the day of _____, 19____, on the following matter, that is to say:—

[If a Bill, set out its Short Title; if any other legislative proposal, set it out.]

Total of valid votes for the Bill (or proposal)	43,700
Total of valid votes against the Bill (or proposal)	33,250
Total of valid votes recorded ...		76,950
Total of informal votes	424

Dated at _____, the _____ day of _____, 19____.

To the Clerk of Writs.

A.B.
Returning Officer.

FORM C.

Statement and Declaration by Clerk of Writs as to Result of Poll.

Referendum under the Legislature Amendment Act, 1913.

THE following is a tabulated statement of the results of the polling taken in every electoral district throughout the Dominion on the _____ day of _____, 19____, upon the following matter, that is to say:—

[If a Bill, set out its Short Title; if any other legislative proposal, set it out.]

Electoral District.	Votes.		
	For.	Against.	Informal.
A.	43,700	33,250	424
B.	34,500	44,800	552
&c.	&c.	&c.	&c.
Total			

As the majority of the total number of valid votes recorded is recorded for [or against] the Bill [or legislative proposal], I hereby declare such Bill [or legislative proposal] to be approved [or disapproved] by the referendum.

Dated at Wellington, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

C.D.
Clerk of Writs.