

15. If the number of persons nominated for any election is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be declared to be duly elected.

16. In any case in which a ballot becomes necessary the Returning Officer shall, immediately after the nominations are closed, prepare and post to each elector entitled to vote at the election a printed ballot-paper containing, in alphabetical order of surnames, a list of all the duly nominated candidates for such election; and such ballot-paper shall be in the form or to the effect following:—

GENERAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.

Election by Members of the Education Boards in the North Island (or as the case may be).

BALLOT PAPER.

FOR USE AT ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE DAY OF , 19 .

CANDIDATES.

[Full names of all duly nominated candidates, in alphabetical order of surnames.]

THE vote of [Name of voter] is hereby recorded as above this day of , 19 .

[Signature of voter.]

DIRECTIONS.

The number of candidates to be elected is

The voter must draw a line through the name of every candidate for whom he does not intend to vote, and the number of names left uncanceled must not exceed the number of candidates to be elected.

This ballot-paper must be signed by the voter and sent to the Returning Officer in a closed envelope, and must either be posted on or before the day of the election, or must be delivered before the day of the election, or not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

The envelope is to be addressed [Name, address, and description of Returning Officer].

17. The poll shall close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day of the election; but all ballot-papers shall be included and counted which are received by the Returning Officer in due course of post before the close of the eighth day after the day of election.

18. A ballot-paper shall be informal in any of the following cases, that is to say:—

- (1.) If it is not duly signed by the elector, or if the number of ballot-papers signed by him exceeds one; or
- (2.) If the number of names of candidates left uncanceled exceed the number of candidates to be elected; or
- (3.) If, being personally delivered to the Returning Officer, it is not delivered at his office before the close of the poll; or if, having been forwarded by post, it is not received at the office of the Returning Officer on or before the eighth day after the day of the election; or
- (4.) If, from the postmark on the envelope or otherwise, the Returning Officer is satisfied that it was not posted until after the day of the election.

19. On the close of the eighth day after the day of the election the Returning Officer shall open and examine all the ballot-papers duly received by him as aforesaid, and, after rejecting informal ballot-papers, if any, shall ascertain the candidates (not exceeding the total number to be elected) who have received the greatest number of the votes, and shall declare such candidates to be elected.

20. If by reason of an equality of votes given for two or more candidates the election is not complete, the Returning Officer shall complete the election by casting lots in the presence of the Director of Education, or, in his absence, of the Assistant Director.

21. Forthwith after the completion of the election, the Returning Officer shall notify in the *Gazette* the result of the election, specifying the names of the candidates, and the number of votes received for each candidate, the number of informal votes, and the candidates who have been elected.

22. The voting-papers shall, after being counted, be locked up in a sealed packet, and, unless an inquiry into the election is demanded, shall be kept unopened in the custody of the Returning Officer for two months, and shall then be destroyed.

23. If any dispute or question arises touching the regularity of any election such dispute or question shall be determined by the Minister of Education, whose decision shall be final.

As witness the hand of His Excellency the Governor, this twenty-seventh day of February, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen.

J. ALLEN,
Minister of Education.