

(d) If, being delivered to the Returning Officer, the sealed envelope containing the voting-paper is not delivered at his office before the close of the poll; or

(e) If, having been forwarded by post, the sealed envelope containing the voting-paper is not received at the office of the Returning Officer before the close of the seventh day after the day of election, or if, from the post-mark on the envelope or otherwise, the Returning Officer is satisfied that it was not posted until after the day of the election:

(f) If it does not bear the official mark and there is reasonable cause to believe that it was not issued to the voter by the Returning Officer:

(g) If the voter fails to sign his name on the inside of the flap of the envelope.

(13) On the eighth day after the day of election the Returning Officer shall open and examine all voting-papers duly delivered to him or received by him through the post as aforesaid, and, after rejecting all informal voting-papers, shall ascertain the candidates (not exceeding the total number to be elected) who have received the greatest number of votes, and shall declare such candidates to be elected.

(14) If, by reason of an equality of votes given for two or more candidates, the election is not complete, the Returning Officer shall decide by lot, in the presence of two members of the Board, which candidate or candidates shall be elected, and thereby complete the election.

(15) (a) Each candidate may, by writing under his hand, appoint one scrutineer, who may be present at the examination of the voting-papers and the counting of the votes by the Returning Officer.

(b) The Returning Officer shall, immediately after counting the votes, seal up all voting-papers, and transmit the whole to the Clerk of the nearest Magistrate's Court, who shall keep the same for six months thereafter, and shall not open or permit to be opened such packet except on the order of some Court of competent jurisdiction, and shall at the end of six months effectually destroy the same.

(16) (a) Forthwith after the completion of the election the Returning Officer shall, by notice exhibited on the outside of the office of the Board, notify the names of the persons elected, the number of valid votes recorded for each candidate, and the total number of votes rejected as informal, and shall notify to the Board and to the Minister the names of the persons elected.

(b) The Returning Officer and every scrutineer shall be required faithfully and impartially to perform the duties of their offices, and shall not directly or indirectly make known the state of the poll or give or pretend to give any information by which the state of the poll may be known before the final declaration thereof by the Returning Officer, or make known for which candidate any voter has voted, or communicate to any person any information likely to defeat the secrecy of the ballot.

(17) If a candidate informs the Returning Officer in writing, not later than three clear days before the polling-day, that he retires from the election, the Returning Officer shall give public notice thereof; and if by such retirement the number of candidates is reduced to the number of vacancies to be filled, the Returning Officer shall publicly declare the remaining candidates to be duly elected; but if the said number of candidates is not so reduced the poll shall proceed, but the person so retiring shall not be capable of being elected.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

7. (1) The Board shall, by and through its Secretary, register associations of employers in local industries, and associations of employees in local industries.

(2) The registers of such associations shall severally be closed at noon on the fourteenth day before the day of the election.

8. (1) The member to be elected by registered associations of employers in local industries shall be elected by an electing committee appointed when required.

(2) Registered associations of employers shall each be entitled to appoint one member of the electing committee for employers.

(3) The names and addresses of persons appointed as members of such electing committee shall be forwarded by the registered associations concerned to the Returning Officer before noon on the fourteenth day before the day of the election.

(4) Such electing committee shall meet on the day fixed for the election, and shall elect, on behalf of the associations of employers, one member in such manner as it shall deem fit, provided that no member of the electing committee shall exercise more than one vote, excepting the Chairman, who shall exercise a casting-vote in addition to his ordinary vote, in any case where such a vote is necessary to determine the election.

(5) The meeting of the electing committee shall be convened by the Returning Officer who shall act as secretary to the committee in person or by deputy.

(6) The name of the member so elected shall be notified forthwith to the Minister and to the Board by writing under the hand of the Returning Officer.

9. The provisions of Regulation 8 hereof shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the election of a member by associations of employees in local industries.

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

11. The members of the Board appointed or elected in accordance with these regulations shall retire on the 31st May in the year 1930, and on the 31st May in each second year thereafter.

12. Retiring members shall be eligible for reappointment or re-election either by the same or another appointing or electing body.

13. The first appointments shall be made and the first election shall be held under these regulations in the month of May, 1928, and the members appointed or elected shall come into office on the 1st day of June, 1928.

14. It shall be the duty of the Board to notify the Minister, the Education Board, the New Plymouth Borough Council, the Taranaki County Council, registered associations of employers in local industries, and registered associations of employees in local industries, by writing under the hand of the Secretary of the Board in the month of March in each year in which members of the Board retire, of the forthcoming vacancies on the Board to be filled respectively by the Governor-General or the other appointing or electing authorities concerned.

15. Whenever a casual vacancy occurs it shall be the duty of the Board forthwith to report the fact to the Minister if the vacancy is to be filled by the Governor-General, or to the Secretary of the Education Board if the vacancy is to be filled by the Board, or to the Town Clerk in the case of a member to be appointed by the New Plymouth Borough Council, or to the County Clerk in the case of a member to be appointed by the Taranaki County Council.

16. (1) The appointment or election of members to fill vacancies caused by the expiry of the ordinary term of office shall be made in the month of May at the end whereof such expiry takes place, but shall not take effect until such expiry.

(2) The appointment or election of a member to fill a casual vacancy shall be made not later than fifty days after the vacancy occurs.

17. It shall not be necessary that the member appointed by any of the appointing or electing bodies shall himself be a member of such body, nor that a member elected by parents shall himself be the parent of a pupil.

18. If any appointment of a member is not made within the time hereinbefore prescribed, or if at any election the number of candidates nominated or duly elected is less than the number of vacancies to be filled, the Secretary shall give notice thereof to the Minister, and the vacancy for which no candidate has been appointed, nominated, or elected (as the case may be) may be filled by appointment by the Minister, or the Minister may direct that the body charged with the duty of appointing a member may proceed to make such appointment, or that the Board proceed to another election for the election of such member or members as the case may be.

19. Where anything connected with the appointment or election of members is omitted to be done, or cannot be done at or by the time hereby prescribed, or is done after such time, or is otherwise irregularly done in matter of form the Minister may at any time before or after the time at or by which such thing is required to be done extend the time for doing such thing to such further time as he thinks fit, or may validate anything so done after the time required or so irregularly done in matter of form as he thinks fit.

20. No act or proceeding of the Board, or of any committee of the Board, or of any person acting as a member of the Board, shall be invalid in consequence of there being a vacancy in the membership of the Board at the time of such act or proceeding, or by reason of there being a defect in the appointment or election of any person so acting, or by reason of his being incapable of being appointed or elected.

F. D. THOMSON,
Clerk of the Executive Council.