

Sir G. Grey.

Elective Council.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to establish an Elective Legislative Council in
New Zealand. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient and necessary that there shall be, in
and for New Zealand, an elective Legislative Council : Preamble.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New
Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,

5 as follows :—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Elective Council Act,
1879." Short Title.

2. There shall be within the Colony of New Zealand a Legislative
Council, in lieu and place of the Legislative Council heretofore
existing, the members of which shall be elected by the electors of
the said colony. Establishment of an
elected Legislative
Council.

3. Such Legislative Council shall consist of _____ members,
of whom _____ shall be Europeans and _____ Maoris ;
_____ of the European members of such Council shall be elected
15 for the North Island, and _____ for the Middle and South Islands ;
and _____ of the Maori members shall be elected for the North
Island, and _____ for the Middle and South Islands. Constitution of
Council.

4. For the purposes of this Act the North Island of New Zealand
shall constitute one electoral district, and the Middle and South
20 Islands another electoral district. Electoral districts
constituted.

5. All the European members for the said constituencies respec-
tively shall be elected by the Europeans of the respective districts who
are legally qualified to vote for members of the House of Represent-
atives, and the Maori members of the said districts shall in like
25 manner be elected by the Maori electors who may by law be entitled
to vote for the return of members to the House of Representatives. Voters for elective
Legislative Council.

6. The elected Legislative Council shall continue for three years
from the day of the return of the writs for choosing such Council, and
no longer. Duration of Council.

First writs to be issued 1st March, 1880.

7. The Governor shall cause the first writs for the election of members of the said Legislative Council to be issued on the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and upon the expiration of the said period of the continuance of the Legislative Council the Governor shall cause writs to be issued for the election of members of the succeeding Legislative Council, and so on from time to time as the period of the continuance of each such Legislative Council expires. 5

Vacancies, how to be filled.

8. When and so often as a vacancy shall occur in any seat in the said Legislative Council, the said Legislative Council shall address the Governor stating the existence of such vacancy and the cause thereof, and the Governor upon receiving such address shall cause a writ to issue for supplying such vacancy. 10

Election of Speaker.

9. The said Legislative Council shall immediately upon their first meeting proceed to the choice of one of their members as their Speaker during the continuance of the said House, and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, then and so often as the same shall happen the choice shall be repeated as aforesaid. 15

Standing Rules and Orders to be made.

10. The said Legislative Council at its first sitting, and from time to time afterwards as there shall be occasion, shall prepare and adopt such Standing Rules and Orders as shall appear to the said Council best adapted for the orderly conduct of the business of such Council, and until such Rules and Orders shall be passed and adopted, the Standing Rules and Orders of the present Legislative Council shall be the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council so to be elected as hereinbefore provided. 20 25

Position of Council in General Assembly.

11. The said Legislative Council so to be elected shall have all the privileges, powers, and duties, and shall hold the same position in the General Assembly of New Zealand, in all respects, as the present Legislative Council now possess and occupy.

Disputed elections.

12. The said Legislative Council shall, until provision be made otherwise in that behalf by law, be judges without appeal of the validity of the election of each member thereof. 30

No member to sit or vote until he shall have taken oath of allegiance.

13. No member of such Legislative Council shall be permitted to sit or vote therein until he shall have taken and subscribed the following oath before the Governor, or before some person or persons authorized by him to administer such oath :— 35

“I, A.B., do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria ; so help me God.”

Affirmation or declaration in place of oath.

14. Every person authorized by law to make his solemn affirmation or declaration, instead of taking an oath, may make such affirmation or declaration in lieu of the said oath. 40

Resignation of seats.

15. It shall be lawful for any member of such Legislative Council, by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker of the said Council, to resign his seat in the said Council, and upon such resignation the seat of such member shall become vacant. 45

Vacating of seats in certain cases.

16. If any Legislative Councillor of New Zealand shall for one whole session of the General Assembly, without the permission of such Council, fail to give his attendance in the said Council, or shall take any oath or make any declaration or acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to any foreign Prince or Power, or do or concur in or adopt any act whereby he may become a subject or citizen of any foreign State or Power, or become entitled to the rights, privileges, or immunities of a subject of any foreign State or Power, or shall become bankrupt, or shall become a public defaulter, or be attainted of treason, or be convicted of felony or any infamous crime, his seat in such Council shall thereby become vacant. 50 55