

This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.
House of Representatives,
27th September, 1893.

Hon. Mr. Seddon.

[AS AMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.]

ELECTORAL LAW AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title. 1. Short Title. 2. Amendments of "Electoral Act, 1893."</p>	<p>3. Shearers may vote on electors' rights. 4. Seamen and commercial travellers' rights. 5. Repeal. Saving.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Electoral Act, 1893."

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

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- 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Electoral Law Amendment Act, 1893."
- 2. "The Electoral Act, 1893" (herein referred to as "the said Act"), is hereby amended as follows, that is to say:—
 - (1.) Section three: In the definition of "Non-residential qualification," the words "or leasehold" are hereby repealed.

Short Title.

Amendments of "Electoral Act, 1893."

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New subsection.

- (2.) Section three of the said Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the interpretation of "Residential qualification," the words "'Residence' includes the usual place of abode."

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- 2. (3.) Sections twenty-three and twenty-four are hereby repealed and the following sections shall be read in lieu thereof:—

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If the Registrar be satisfied that any claim for enrolment is valid he shall forthwith place the name of the claimant on the roll.

It shall be lawful for the claimant, by writing, to withdraw his claim.

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If the Registrar be not satisfied of the validity of any claim for enrolment, it shall be his duty, within the five days following the receipt of the claim, to make inquiries as to the truth of the particulars therein stated. If he shall satisfy himself, within the said five days, that the particulars stated as the claims are true he shall thereupon place the name of the claimant on the roll; otherwise, he shall, within the said five days, cause notice in writing to be given to the claimant, setting forth the particulars of which proof is required.

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If, within twenty-one days after proof shall be required as aforesaid, the claimant shall fail to satisfy the Registrar that his claim is valid, and shall fail to withdraw his claim, the Registrar shall as soon as conveniently may be thereafter apply to a Resident Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace for a summons, who shall forthwith issue a summons, in the form or to the effect set forth in the Fifth Schedule ~~hereto~~ to the said Act. 5

(3.) Section one hundred and fifty-six: In subsection eleven thereof, the words beginning the second paragraph, "Before giving a voting-paper to any half-caste," shall be omitted, and the following substituted therefor: "Before giving a voting-paper to any Maori or half-caste." 10

Shearers may vote on electors' rights.

3. All provisions of Part III. of the said Act in relation to voting by ~~seamen and~~ commercial travellers by means of electors' rights are hereby extended to shearers, and sections sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-four, sixty-six, and the Eighth Schedule of the said Act, shall be read and shall take effect as if the words "or shearer" had been originally inserted after the words "commercial traveller," wherever the same occur in the aforesaid sections and schedule, and as if in subsection two of section sixty-two the words "or shearers" had been inserted after "or commercial travellers" (within brackets), and as if in the last paragraph of the same section the words "and shearers" had been inserted therein after the words "commercial travellers." 15 20 25

In this Act, and for the purposes thereof and of the said Act, "Shearer" means and includes every person who, during the season of the year for shearing sheep in any locality, is *bona fide* employed by any owner of sheep in such locality for shearing his sheep.

Seamen and commercial travellers' rights.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in section sixty-one of the said Act, any seaman, or commercial traveller, or shearer, who shall not on or before the twentieth day of the month of October in the now current year be within the electoral district for which he is enrolled as an elector under the said Act, may at any time on or before the aforesaid day appear personally before the Registrar of any electoral district wherein he may be for the time, and in his presence may make and sign an application and declaration for an elector's right in the form or to the effect of Form A in the Eighth Schedule to the said Act, and the said Registrar shall receive and transmit such claim to the Registrar of the district in which the applicant is enrolled, who may thereupon issue an elector's right to such applicant. 30 35 40

Repeal. Saving.

5. "The Representation Act Amendment Act, 1893," is hereby repealed. But—

All appointments made, and all things or acts done or performed, under or for the purposes of such repealed Act at the time of the commencement of "The Electoral Act, 1893," shall be deemed to have been respectively made, done, or performed under the last-mentioned Act; and 45

All electoral rolls formed or in progress of formation, or printed, under or for the purposes of the aforesaid repealed Act at the said commencement shall be deemed to have been and 50

to be formed or printed, or in progress of formation or printing, and may be continued and perfected under and for the purposes of "The Electoral Act, 1893."

New Clauses.

VOTING BY WOMEN.

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6. Every duly-registered elector, being a woman whose name appears on the electoral roll of any district, and is not disqualified by any law for the time being in force, shall be entitled before the issue of a writ to receive an elector's right in virtue of her registration as aforesaid, and for such purpose may appear personally before the Registrar for the electoral district for which she is enrolled, and in his presence shall make and sign a claim and declaration to the effect in the Form A of the Eighth Schedule of the said Act.

Women may make declaration and claim for an elector's right.

Eighth Schedule.

7. The Registrar, on being satisfied that the claimant is duly enrolled as an elector of the district,—

Issue of woman's elector's right.

(1.) Shall fill up an elector's right in the Form B in the Eighth Schedule of the said Act, purporting to entitle such claimant to vote at elections of members to serve in the House of Representatives for such district, in the manner provided by this Act, and, having placed a number thereon, which shall be a consecutive number in arithmetical series, beginning with the number one, through the whole series of rights issued by such Registrar under this section, shall deliver the same to the claimant; and

(2.) Shall write opposite to the name of the claimant on the roll of the district the words "Woman's electoral right issued," and shall initial such entry and insert the date of the issue of such right and the number thereof.

The said Registrar shall forthwith after the issue of a writ for an election transmit to the Returning Officer of the district a list of all electors' rights issued to women voters, together with the original applications signed by them respectively for the said rights, and the Returning Officer shall keep the said applications for the purpose of verification of signatures as hereinafter mentioned.

8. No person, being a women to whom an elector's right is issued as aforesaid, shall be entitled to vote at any election for the district where the said right was issued unless she produces her elector's right and has the same indorsed as hereinafter provided.

Holder of elector's right not to vote unless she produces such right.

9. Every person, being the holder of a woman's elector's right issued to her for any district, shall be qualified by virtue of such right to vote at an election of a member or members of the House of Representatives for the aforesaid district, and, for such purpose,—

Vote may be given in district.

(1.) Shall apply in person, at any time after the day of nomination for an election in such district, and before the hour of closing the poll on the polling-day, to the Postmaster at any post-office within the district, and produce to him her elector's right, and sign an application in the Form C in the Eighth Schedule of the said Act for a ballot-paper in respect of the aforesaid district:

(2.) The Postmaster shall thereupon fill up a blank ballot-paper (which need not be in the form of a ballot-paper as provided by this Act) with the names of the candidates of

such district, and shall then write on the bottom of the left-hand corner of the back of the ballot-paper his initials and the number of the elector's right produced to him in respect of which the ballot-paper is given, and, after securing the said corner by gum or otherwise, shall sign his name near such corner, together with the name of his office, and shall give the same to the voter, who shall, without leaving the room, erase in pencil or in ink the names of the candidate or candidates for whom she does not wish to vote, and, having folded the paper so that the contents cannot be seen, shall return it to the Postmaster, who shall in the presence of the voter enclose the ballot-paper in an envelope addressed to the Returning Officer of the district for which the vote is exercised, and, having closed the envelope, shall enclose the first envelope, together with the aforesaid application of the voter for a ballot-paper, in a second envelope similarly addressed, and shall forthwith post it to its address.

The Postmaster shall then indorse the elector's right with a note of the exercise thereof, and shall sign and date the same, and then return it to the voter.

Every such letter shall go free by post.

- (3.) Immediately after the hour fixed for the closing of the poll on the polling-day, every Postmaster shall transmit to the Returning Officer the names of all the electors who shall have exercised their right to vote at the post-office under his charge.
- (4.) Every Returning Officer, on receiving a ballot-paper transmitted to him as in this section mentioned, shall compare the signature of the voter, in her application for a ballot-paper transmitted to him by the Postmaster, with the signature on the original application for an elector's right made by such voter transmitted to him by the Registrar of the district, and, if he finds the signatures to be identical, shall allow the vote and have it duly recorded, and shall put the ballot-paper into the ballot-box at the principal polling-place; but, if he finds the signature dissimilar, shall reject the ballot-paper as informal.

10. Every person, being a woman voter to whom an elector's right has been issued as aforesaid, shall, on production thereof to the Returning Officer, be entitled to vote in the said district in virtue of her registration on the roll for such district, but not otherwise, and he shall write or stamp on such right the word "voted" and the date.

Nothing in this or the four immediately preceding sections shall be deemed to restrict or affect the right to vote at a polling-booth of a woman elector, to whom an elector's right has not been issued as aforesaid.

11. Every woman who loses her electoral right, on personal application to the Registrar of the district from whom she received it, and on making the declaration in the Form D in the Eighth Schedule of the said Act, and on payment to him of the sum of two shillings, shall be entitled to have a duplicate of such right granted to her.

Women may vote in district of registration on production of elector's right.

In case of loss duplicate elector's right may be issued.

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12. The Eighth Schedule of the said Act is hereby amended by the addition thereto of the following form :—

Eighth Schedule of main Act amended.

VOTING BY A WOMAN.

FORM E.

Application for a Woman's Elector's Right.

To the Registrar of the Electoral District of
I [name in full], being a registered elector whose name is on the electoral roll for this district, claim to have an elector's right issued to me in respect of my qualification as a woman voter for such district.

Dated the day of , 18 .

[Signature.]

[Address.]

Signed and declared by the claimant
this day of , 18 ,
before me—

E.F.,
Registrar for the Electoral District of