

Mr. Pirani.

ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE 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 Preamble.
 5 for New Zealand an elective Legislative Council :

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Elective Legislative Short Title.
 10 Council Act, 1899."

2. There shall be within the Colony of New Zealand a Legislative Establishment of an
elective Legislative
Council.
 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.

3. Such Legislative Council shall consist of thirty-seven mem- Constitution of
Council.
 15 bers, of whom thirty-four shall be Europeans and three Maoris. Seventeen of the European members of such Council shall be elected for the North Island, and seventeen for the Middle and South Islands; and two of the Maori members shall be elected for the
 20 North Island, and one for the Middle and South Islands.

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

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

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

First writs to be issued 1st March, 1900.

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 nine hundred, and upon the expiration of the said period, for 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. The said elections shall be conducted, so far as can be, under the provisions of "The Electoral Act, 1893," and its amendments.

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Vacancies, how to be filled.

8. When and so often as a vacancy shall occur in any seat in the said Legislative Council, writs shall be issued for supplying such vacancy in such manner as is provided in "The Electoral Act, 1893," and its amendments for supplying vacancies in the House of Representatives.

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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.

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Standing orders and rules 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 Legislative Council hitherto in force shall be the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Council so to be elected as hereinbefore provided.

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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.

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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.

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No member to sit or vote until he shall have taken the 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 authorised by him to administer such oath:—

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.

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Affirmations in certain cases.

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

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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.

Vacating of seats in certain cases.

16. The seat of a Legislative Councillor shall become vacant for any of the reasons set out in "The Electoral Act, 1893," in connection with the vacating of a seat of a member of the House of Representatives.

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