

Hon. Sir G. Grey.

Representation.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Members to be elected for House of Representatives, exclusive of Maori members.</p> <p>3. House of Representatives to continue for three years.</p> <p>4. Constitution of Representation Board. Quorum.</p> <p>5. Board to divide colony into electoral districts.</p> <p>6. Rules for guidance of Board.</p> <p>7. Board to report to Governor. Report to be gazetted.</p>	<p>8. If necessary to form new rolls, officers to be appointed.</p> <p>9. How new rolls to be formed.</p> <p>10. Provision for omitting names in certain cases.</p> <p>11. Publication and effect of new rolls.</p> <p>12. Time of issue of writs.</p> <p>13. Rolls in force kept in existence till expiration or dissolution of Parliament.</p> <p>14. If necessary, Governor may issue writs for a new Parliament without reference to this Act.</p> <p>15. How new rolls to be then formed.</p> <p>16. Saving of Maori Representation Acts.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Provision for the Representation of the People in the General Assembly. Title.

BE IT 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 Representation Act, 1879." Short Title.
2. At the first general election for the House of Representatives which shall be held after the passing of this Act, there shall be elected members of the said House, in addition to any members to be elected under any Act in force for the election of Maori members. Members to be elected for House of Representatives, exclusive of Maori members.
3. After the dissolution or other determination of the present General Assembly, the House of Representatives shall continue for a period of three years, to be computed from the day fixed for the return of the first writ issued for choosing such House, unless the General Assembly shall be sooner dissolved. House of Representatives to continue for three years.
4. There shall be a Board, consisting of the persons from time to time holding the following offices: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Colonial Secretary, the Chairman of Committees of the said House, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and the Registrar-General. Constitution of Representation Board.
- Such Board shall be called "the Representation Board," and any three of such persons shall form a quorum, and may exercise all functions vested in the Board, which is hereinafter referred to as "the Board." Quorum.

The Board may make such rules for the conduct of its business as it thinks fit, so long as the same are not inconsistent with this Act.

Board to divide colony into electoral districts.

5. Within *three* months after the end of the present session of Parliament, and within *three* months after the taking of every census under any law for the time being in force, the Board shall divide the colony into the same number of electoral districts by the number of members to be elected, exclusive of Maori members. 5

The districts shall, as far as practicable, be so arranged that only one member shall be elected for each district.

Rules for guidance of Board.

6. In the exercise of its functions the Board shall be guided by the following provisions:— 10

(1.) Electoral districts shall be of two classes, country districts and town districts.

(2.) Every borough having a population of over six thousand five hundred souls shall either form one town district or be divided into two or more town districts. Where the population of a borough is less than six thousand five hundred souls it may be included in a country district, or with one or more contiguous boroughs. 15

(3.) The remainder of the population of the colony shall be divided into country districts. 20

(4.) The total number of members to be elected for country districts shall bear to the aggregate population of such districts a proportion exceeding by, as nearly as possible, twenty-five per cent. the proportion borne by the total number of members to be elected for town districts to the aggregate population of the town districts. 25

(5.) The Board shall divide the aggregate population of the country districts by the total number of members to be elected for such districts, and the result so obtained shall be called "the normal number for country districts." 30

(6.) It shall similarly divide the aggregate population of the town districts by the total number of members to be elected for such districts, and the result so obtained shall be called "the normal number for town districts." 35

(7.) The division of the colony into electoral districts shall be effected in such manner that each country district shall contain a population as nearly as possible equal to the normal number for country districts, and that each town district shall contain a population as nearly as possible equal to the normal number for town districts. 40

(8.) The Board may carry out the division of the colony into districts in such manner as it thinks fit, having regard to the provisions of this Act; and the division into districts made by it shall be final. 45

(9.) The Census last taken before the Board makes such division shall be sufficient evidence as to the population of the colony or a district, but the Board may take such other evidence as it thinks reliable.

Board to report to Governor.

7. When the Board shall have performed the functions hereby imposed upon it, a report shall be made to the Governor, setting forth the names and boundaries of the electoral districts. 50

Report to be gazetted.

The Governor shall cause such report to be gazetted, and shall, by Proclamation, fix a day upon which such division shall take effect.

If necessary to form new rolls, officers to be appointed.

8. If the result of such division shall render it necessary, the Governor shall forthwith appoint officers for the purpose of forming new electoral rolls for every district affected by the action of the Board, and such new rolls shall take effect as hereafter provided. 55

How new rolls to be formed.

9. For the purpose of forming new electoral rolls upon any fresh division of districts, the name of every elector registered on any roll for the time being in force, entitling him to vote at elections of 60

members of the House of Representatives under any qualification within any electoral district as constituted immediately before any division of districts, shall be placed on the new electoral roll or rolls of the electoral districts constituted under this Act in which he may appear to have a
5 sufficient electoral qualification.

10 10. If any elector on the former rolls be registered in respect of any qualification in two or more of the districts constituted under this Act, any officer appointed as aforesaid may, in forming the new rolls, omit the name of such elector from the roll of either one or more of
10 the new electoral districts within which such elector may not appear to such officer to have a sufficient electoral qualification.

Provision for omitting names in certain cases.

15 11. Upon such new electoral rolls being so formed as aforesaid, the same shall forthwith be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, and shall be published in such convenient manner as the Governor shall
15 direct, and, from and after the day of the dissolution or expiration of the Parliament in being at the time when such rolls are formed, the electoral roll so formed for each district shall be the electoral roll to be used for such district for all purposes, until a revised electoral roll for the same shall be in force under the provisions of the law for the
20 time being in force for the registration of electors.

Publication and effect of new rolls.

25 12. Writs shall be issued for the election of members of the House of Representatives in the Parliament ensuing the division and apportionment provided for by this Act for all the electoral districts constituted under this Act so soon as the new rolls shall have been
25 formed and published, as hereinbefore provided.

Time of issue of writs

30 13. All electoral rolls in force at the time of any division of the colony into electoral districts under this Act shall remain in force until the dissolution or expiration of the Parliament in being at the
30 time when such division is made.

Rolls in force kept in existence till expiration or dissolution of Parliament.

35 14. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, if at any time it shall appear to the Governor to be necessary to summon a Parliament before any first or subsequent division of the colony into electoral districts under this Act can be effected, or before new electoral rolls for
35 any district for which new rolls are to be formed shall have been formed and published as hereinbefore provided, it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to issue writs for the election of members of the House of Representatives in like manner as if no such first or subsequent division had been made, and in such case no election shall take
40 place under this Act (except such as shall take place under this present provision) until after the dissolution or expiration of the Parliament next succeeding the Parliament in which such division shall have been
40 effected.

If necessary, Governor may issue writs for a new Parliament without reference to this Act.

45 15. And in that case, immediately upon such dissolution or expiration, the Governor shall appoint such officers as are mentioned in
45 the eighth section of this Act, and the electoral rolls then in force for the election of members of the Assembly shall be the rolls from which the new electoral rolls shall be formed.

How new rolls to be then formed.

50 16. Nothing in this Act contained shall interfere with or affect
50 the special representation provided for by "The Maori Representation Act, 1867," or any Act amending or continuing the same.

Saving of Maori Representation Acts.