

No. , 1910.

A BILL

To submit to a referendum the question of the reduction of the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly, the fixing of the number of the Members of the Legislative Council, and other provisions to guard against deadlocks; and for purposes consequent thereon and incidental thereto.

[MR. WOOD;— August, 1910.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

5

Preliminary.

1. This Act may be cited as the "Constitutional Reform Short title.
Referendum Act, 1910."

77272

159—(2)

The

The taking of the vote.

When vote to be taken.

2. On the day in this year to be fixed for the poll at the election of Members of the Legislative Assembly the question of the reduction of the number of such Members, and the question of fixing the number of the Members of the Legislative Council, with provisions against deadlocks, shall be submitted to a vote by ballot under this Act. 5

Writ to Returning officer.

3. For the purpose of taking the said vote, the Governor shall appoint a returning officer, and shall issue his writ to such officer, returnable on the same day as the writs for the said election.

Persons entitled to vote.

4. The persons entitled to vote under this Act shall be the persons entitled to vote at the said election of members of the Legislative Assembly, and no other persons. 10

Polling-places.

5. The vote shall be taken at the polling-places appointed for the said election, and the returning officers, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, and other officers appointed for the said election shall have similar duties and shall act in similar capacities for the purpose of the vote to be taken under this Act. 15

Place and time of voting.

6. An elector may vote under this Act at any polling-place at which he may vote at the said election of members of the Legislative Assembly, and may so vote during the time that the poll for the said election is open; but if he votes more than once, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding pounds. 20

Forms of voting paper—Schedules One and Two.

7. The voting-papers shall be in the forms of Schedules One and Two respectively.

Voting-papers to be forwarded to returning officer.

8. The voting-papers under this Act shall, after the close of the poll for the election of members of the Legislative Assembly, be sealed up and forwarded to the returning officer appointed under this Act. 25

Determinations approved by electors.

Returning officers to deal with voting-papers.

9. The said returning officer shall reject all invalid voting-papers, and shall deal with the voting-papers and determine the result of the voting in the manner prescribed. 30

Invalid voting-papers.

10. Any voting-paper shall be invalid—
from which any signature, initial letter, or mark required to be written, printed, or punctured thereon is absent or has been erased, obliterated, or torn; or
on which no cross has been placed by the elector; or
on which the cross has been placed by the elector opposite to more than one number. 35

Publication of result of vote.

11. The returning officer shall, on determining the result of the voting, publish such result in the Gazette. 40

Regulations.

Regulations.

12. The Governor may make such regulations as he may think necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, and in particular—

- 5 regulating the printing, marking, and supplying voting-papers ; prescribing the manner in which votes may be given ; providing for the disposal of the voting-papers ; prescribing the duties of officers ; and prescribing the terms to be used.
10 The Governor may in those regulations impose any penalty not exceeding five pounds for their breach.

SCHEDULES.

SCHEDULE ONE.

VOTING-PAPER.

15 As to what shall be the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows. Top row: 90 (This is the present number.) Bottom row: 72

Indicate your vote by placing a cross in the square opposite the number for which you vote.

20

SCHEDULE TWO.

VOTING-PAPER.

As to whether there shall be a ratio between the number of members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.

25 Are you in favour of establishing a fixed ratio between the number of members of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly with provision against deadlocks.

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows. Top row: Yes. Bottom row: No.

30 Indicate your vote by placing a cross in the square opposite the answer which you desire to give to the question.