

1926.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) BILL 1926.

(Amendments to be proposed by the *Honourary Minister, the
Hon. C. W. C. Marr.*)

Page 1, clause 2, line 10, after "amended" insert—

"—(a) by inserting in sub-section (1.), after the words 'one hundred and forty-one' the words 'and section one hundred and ninety-four A'; and

"(b)".

Page 1, clause 3, lines 16–23, leave out all words after "amended", insert—

"(a) by omitting from sub-section (1.) the words 'nine weeks' and inserting in their stead the words 'fourteen days'; and

(b) by omitting from that sub-section the words 'within two months after the expiry of those nine weeks, and not later than two weeks after the issue of the writ' and inserting in their stead the words 'not less than fourteen days before the day fixed for the taking of the votes of the electors for the purposes of the referendum'".

NEW CLAUSES.

5A. Section nineteen of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from paragraph (e) the words "an Assistant Returning Officer" and inserting in their stead the words "an Assistant Presiding Officer".

Conduct
of scrutiny

6A. After section twenty of the Principal Act the following section is inserted :—

Action on objection to ballot-papers.

“ 20A.—(1.) If a scrutineer objects to a ballot-paper as being informal, the officer conducting the scrutiny shall mark the ballot-paper ‘ admitted ’ or ‘ rejected ’ according to his decision to admit or reject the ballot-paper.

“ (2.) Nothing in this section shall prevent the officer conducting the scrutiny from rejecting any ballot-paper as being informal although it is not objected to.”.

Immaterial errors not to vitiate referendum

8. Section thirty-three of the Principal Act is amended—

(a) by omitting the words “ or on account of the absence or error of any officer which is not proved to have affected the result of the referendum ” and inserting in their stead the words “ or on account of the absence or error of or omission by any officer which did not affect the result of the referendum ”; and

(b) by adding at the end thereof the following proviso :—

“ Provided that where any elector was, on account of the absence or error of or omission by any officer, prevented from voting on a referendum, the Court shall not, for the purpose of determining whether the absence or error of or omission by the officer did or did not affect the result of the referendum, admit any evidence of the way in which the elector intended to vote.”.

Minor amendments of Principal Act

9. The Principal Act is amended by omitting the words and figures “ Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918-1919 ” (wherever occurring) and inserting in their stead the words and figures “ Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918-1925 ”.