

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

I. Be it enacted, that for the purpose of obtaining an equal representation of the people in the Commons' House of Parliament, the United Kingdom be divided into 300 electoral districts. There are, say 6,000,000 of men, eligible to vote; this number, divided by 300, gives 20,000 to each member.

II. That each such district contain, as nearly as may be, an equal number of inhabitants.

III. That the number of inhabitants be taken from the last census, and as soon as possible after the next ensuing decennial census shall have been taken, the electoral districts be made to conform thereto.

IV. That each electoral district be named after the principal city or burgh within its limits.

V. That each electoral district return one representative to sit in the Commons' House of Parliament, and no more.

VI. That the Secretary of State for the Home Department shall appoint three competent persons as commissioners, and as many sub-commissioners, as may be necessary for settling the boundaries of each of the 300 electoral districts, and so on from time to time, whenever a new decennial census of the people be taken.

VII. That the necessary expenses of the said commissioners, sub-commissioners, clerks, and other persons employed by them in the performance of their duties, be paid out of the public treasury.

REGISTRATION OFFICERS.

Be it enacted, that for the purpose of procuring an accurate registration of voters—for finally adjudicating in all cases of objections made against persons claiming to be registered—for receiving the nominations of Members of Parliament, and returning officers, and declaring their election, as well as for conducting and superintending all matters connected with registration, nomination, and elections, according to the provisions of this Act, the following officers be appointed:—

1. Returning officers for each electoral district.

2. Deputy returning officers for each district.

3. The parish-clerks, for the time being, in every parish.

RETURNING OFFICER, AND HIS DUTIES.

I. Be it enacted, that at the first general election after the passing of this Act, a returning officer be elected for every electoral district throughout the kingdom, and so in like manner at the end of every three years.

II. That at the end of every such period, the returning officer for each district be nominated in like manner, and elected at the same time as the Member of Parliament for the district—he shall be eligible to be re-elected.

III. That vacancies occasioned by the death, removal, or resignation of the returning officer, shall, in like manner, be filled up as vacancies for Members of Parliament, for the unexpired term of the three years.

IV. That every returning officer shall appoint a deputy returning officer for the day of election, for every balloting place within his district, and in all cases be responsible for the just fulfilment of the duties of such deputies.

V. That it be the duty of the returning officer to see that the parish clerk in each parish is properly qualified for the duties of registration, and if not, to represent the same to the parochial authorities, who are hereby authorised and commanded to appoint a person qualified for such duties.

VI. That he also see that proper balloting places, and such other erections as may be necessary, be provided by each parish, (or any number that may be united,) and that the balloting boxes be made and provided according to the provisions of this Act.

VII. That he receive the lists of voters from all the parishes in his district, in which lists shall be marked or specified the names of the persons who have been objected to by the parish-clerks or any other persons.

VIII. That between the first of April and the first of May, in each year, he shall hold open courts of adjudication, at such a number of places within his district as he may deem necessary, of which courts (place and time of meeting) he shall cause due notice to be given in each parish of the district, and, at the same time, invite all persons who have made objections, and who have been objected to. And after hearing the statements that may be made by both parties, he shall finally adjudicate whether the voter's name be placed on the register or not.

IX. That the returning officer shall then cause to be made out an alphabetical list of all the registered voters in all the parishes within his district; which list, signed and attested by himself, shall be used at all elections for the district. Such lists to be sold to the public at reasonably low prices.

X. That the returning officer receive all nominations for the Member of his district, as well as for the returning officer of his district, and shall give public notice of the same according to the provisions of this Act. He shall also receive from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the orders for any new election, in case of the death or resignation of the Member of the district, as well as the orders to superintend and conduct the election of any other district, in case of the death or resignation of the returning officer of such district.

XI. That the returning officer shall also receive the returns from all the parishes within his district on the day of the election, and on the day following the election, he shall proclaim the state of the ballot as directed by this Act, and perform the several duties appertaining to his office as herein made and provided.

XII. That the returning officer be paid, for fulfilling the duties of his office, £500 per annum, out of the public treasury.

XIII. That upon a petition being presented to the House of Commons, by at least one hundred qualified electors, against any returning officer, complaining of corruption in the exercise of his office, or of incapacity, such complaints be inquired into by a committee of the House, consisting of seven members, and on their report being read, the members present shall then determine whether such returning officer be or be not guilty, or be or be not incapacitated.

XIV. That for conducting the first elections after the passing of this Act, a returning officer for each district be temporarily appointed by the Secretary of State, to perform the duties prescribed by this Act.—*See Penalties*

DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER, AND HIS DUTIES.

I. Be it enacted, that a deputy returning officer be appointed by the district returning officer, to preside at each balloting place on the day of election—such deputy to be subject and responsible to his authority, as well as to the provisions of this Act.

II. That it be the duty of the deputy returning officer to see that the proper number of persons be provided to aid him in taking the ballot, and for performing the necessary business thereof, and, if not, to represent the same to the parochial officers, who are hereby authorised and commanded to provide such persons.

III. That the deputy returning officer shall see that proper registration lists are provided, and that the balloting begin at six o'clock in the morning precisely, and end at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

IV. That the deputy returning officer, in the presence of the agents of the candidates, examine and seal the balloting boxes previous to the commencement of the balloting.