1894. NEW ZEALAND.

LOCAL-OPTION POLL:

NUMBER OF VOTES RECORDED, ETC., IN EACH DISTRICT

TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF "THE ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS SALE CONTROL ACT, 1893," IN THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1894 (RETURN SHOWING THE).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The following return has been compiled from information supplied by the respective Returning Officers, and, though not so complete as might be desired, it affords a fairly accurate survey of the results of the local-option polls. The main interest centres in the figures respecting publicans' licenses, the accommodation and bottle-license proposals being minor issues; and in respect of publicans' licenses the return may be taken as correct enough for all practical purposes. The figures in respect of the other two classes of licenses are rendered of less value by the fact that a vote was taken on these licenses in districts in which they could not lawfully exist. For instance, accommodation licenses obviously cannot be granted in boroughs, and bottle licenses are confined to the Provincial Districts of Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Marlborough, Westland, and Otago, though there are none in force in Hawke's Bay. The votes polled in these five provincial districts in respect of bottle licenses were as follows:—

For continuance as at present		• • •	***	14,829
For reduction	•••		•••	5,927
For no license	•••			23,596

The column headed "Informal Votes" is given for what it is worth, but it is not complete enough to be of much practical value. It may be mentioned that in two cases in which the Returning Officers included the informal votes in the count the Supreme Court decided that the informal votes should not have been so counted, and the declaration of the polls was amended accordingly. In a third district the Returning Officer, having noted the Supreme Court judgment, altered his return without waiting to be moved thereto.

In 33 districts the polls were void; in 12 reduction was carried; in 12 it was resolved that the present number of licenses continue; in 2 no proposal was declared carried; in 1 the abolition of all licenses was carried; in 1 the poll was void as regards accommodation licenses, and for reduction of publicans' licenses; and in 1 reduction of publicans' and accommodation licenses, and abolition of bottle licenses, was carried.

C. J. A. HASELDEN, Under-Secretary.

RETURN Showing the NUMBER of Votes recorded, &c., in each LICENSING DISTRICT, at the LOCAL-OPTION POIL taken under the Provisions of "The Alcoholic

238 235 235 235 235 235 236 236 237 238 238 238 238 238 238 238 238 238 238
3,613 727 3,980 1,301 4,140 733 825 825 2,563 253

Continue as at present. " No proposal carried. Void.	Continue as at present.	Void. Beduction.	Void. " Réduction, publicans'; void, accom-	modation. Continue as at present. "	Reduction. Void. Reduction, publicans' and accommodation; abolition, bottle. Reduction. Void."	Prohibition. Reduction. Void. Reduction. Void.	
391 392 718	1,266	 (150p.) (160a.)	(147b.) 79 375 169	 144 237	326 124 294 1,922 307 195 50	202 222 118 161 	:
2,408 843 2,528 1,935 1,167	2,323	1,284 2,409 2,092 9,343	932 1,238 2,117 1,352	1,761 2,102 2,758	2,086 1,584 1,153 2,508 2,508 1,643 1,359 1,005	2,478 2,063 1,044 1,021 2,150 1,367	122,234
1,012 195 562 613 308	742 687	414 1,059 911 4,332	402 426 804 600	619 785 1,201	1,042 670 670 523 1,174 4,503 938 675 685 686	995 718 274 338 969 518	47,862
1,396 648 1,966 1,322 859	1,581	870 1,350 1,181 5,011	530 812 1,313 752	1,142 1,317 1,557	1,330 1,347 914 630 1,334 1,072 1,072 963 673	1,483 1,345 770 683 1,181 849	74,372
620 141 258 759 414	935		.:.	673	891 1,134 1,027 689 1,371 1,971 1,001 851 948	1,908 990 315 523 1,239 809	35,686
201 51 305 110 112	170		:: 35	.:	106 111 255 1,827 1,827 310 103 29 360	68 116 194 93 180 84	8,018
1,187 476 1,088 551 363	749 1,480		299	771	739 876 254 251 251 566 1,411 381 494 494 494	215 726 454 244 730 310	25,802
598 114 230 546 382	527 403	418 568	 913 647	620	863 1,101 984 642 1,291 4,038 4,038 941 738 920 941	1,683 948 215 497 1,194	35,442
216 107 335 124 102	186 173	127	.: 131 144	95	106 177 110 121 332 2,183 377 153 403	74 132 222 94 221 104	9,823
1,194 504 1,078 806 413	1,176	490	 646 428	792 1,087	779 871 275 280 586 1,465 575 557 557 557	453 755 538 269 734 311	31,342
602 120 247 584 408	527 424	450 1,184 960 3,966	458 529 983 730	643 743 963	869 1,109 1,008 1,008 1,208 3,906 3,906 1,212 1,212 1,212	1,642 955 225 502 1,149 799	48,993
293 148 373 180 167	249 216	154 174 228 1,635	146 185 167 168	102 110 236	2,480 2,480 1,480 1,65 1,65 1,65 1,65 1,65	90 146 257 100 296 109	16,096
1,113 477 1,079 767 394	1,172	495 792 774 2,841	249 482 637 454	787 1,061 1,559	771 859 279 274 559 1,359 357 546 66	487 740 512 558 702 312	42,429
3,529 2,037 3,811 3,477 2,920	3,557	2,949 3,364 3,425 13,789	3,019 2,937 3,711 2,594	2,837 3,253 3,730	2,855 2,284 2,284 3,584 13,634 2,845 2,845 2,829 2,929	3,315 3,278 2,964 2,928 3,731 3,079	248,194
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Nelson City Waimea-Sounds Wairau Buller Inangahua	Grey Westland	Ashley Kaiapoi Ayon Christchurch City	Riccarton Ellesmere Ashburton Selwyn	Rangitata Pareora Timaru	Waitaki Oamaru Waihemo Waihemo Waihouaiti Chalmers Dunedin City Caversham Taieri Bruce	Clutha Mataura Wakatipu Wallace Invercargill Awarua	Totals

* The details of the poll in the Manukau District cannot be ascertained.

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