This Public Bill originated in the House of Representatives, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives,

2nd December, 1913.

Hon. Mr. Herdman.

COUNTIES AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title. 1. Short Title.

- 2. Alteration of county boundaries. Repeal.
- 3. Moneys payable on alteration of boundaries of counties.
- 4. Section 23 of principal Act amended. Section 59 of principal Act amended. Repeal.
- County electors roll, when to be prepared.
 O jections to county electors roll.
 Amendment of county electors roll.

- 8. Appeals to Magistrate. 9. When roll to come into force.
- 10. Closing of the roll.
- 11. Repeals. Section 52 of principal Act amended.
- 12. Clerk to prepare roll for purposes of poll. 13. Section 81 of principal Act amended.

- Section 82 of principal Act amended.
 Section 97 of principal Act amended.
 Section 98 of principal Act amended.
 Section 118 of principal Act amended.
 Section 123 of principal Act amended.
 Section 123 of principal Act amended.
- 19. Drainage rate.

- 20. Repeal.
- 21. Drainage rates to be on graduated scale. Appeal from classification. N tice of appeal. Amendment of classification. Sea'ed copy of classification-list to be receivable in evidence. Amendment of classification list. 22. County Chairman to be Justice of the Peace. 23. Notice of election of Chairman.
- 24. Repeal.
- 25. Power to borrow for harbour-works. Repeal. 26. Section 2 of Amendment Act, 1910, amended.
- 27. Council may supply electric light and power to inhabitants of county.
- agement. Charges. "public work."
- 30. Extended powers of Councils.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Counties Act, 1908.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as 5 follows:-

1. This Act may be cited as the Counties Amendment Act, 1913, short Title. and shall form part of and be read together with the Counties Act, 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. (1.) The boundaries of any two or more contiguous counties Alteration of county 10 may from time to time be altered by the Governor by Proclamation.

(2.) Where the principal Act is in force in any one or more of the counties the boundaries whereof are proposed to be altered, a Proclamation under this section may be made in accordance with a resolution proposing the alteration passed by the Council of each 15 of such counties in which the principal Act is in force.

(3.) (a.) If the Council of any county passes a resolution proposing an alteration of boundaries, and the Council of any contiguous county whose boundaries are thereby proposed to be altered does not within three months thereafter pass a resolution proposing the same altera-20 tion, the Council which has passed such resolution may present a

No. 67-3.

boundaries.

364.

Title.

- Interpretation. C uncil may erect or pur-chase workers' dwellings. By-laws. Man-agement. Charges. Acquiring land a
 - 29. Modes of dealing with workers' dwellings.
 - Schedule.

petition to the Governor requesting that the proposed alteration be made. Such petition shall be executed by the petitioning Council under the seal of the county, and be signed by not less than twothirds of those ratepayers whose properties are situated within the area or areas which it is proposed by such alteration to exclude from or include in the boundaries of the county of the petitioning Council.

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(b.) Upon receipt of such petition the Governor may direct a Commission, consisting of a Commissioner of Crown Lands and an offic r in charge of a valuation district within which any such area proposed to be excluded or included, or part thereof, is situated, and 10 one other fit person appointed by the Governor, to inquire and report to him whether the alterations of boundaries proposed by the petitioning Council or any other alterations of the boundaries of the contiguous counties ought or ought not to be made.

(c.) The said Commission shall have all the powers and functions 15 of a Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1908.

(d.) The Governor may, by Proclamation, alter the boundaries of the petitioning county and the contiguous county or counties in such manner as he may deem to be in accordance with the report of the said Commission.

(4.) A Proclamation made under the authority of this section shall fully describe the altered boundaries of each of the counties affected by it, and the altered boundaries so defined shall, as from the gazetting of the Proclamation, be the boundaries of the counties mentioned therein.

(5.) Section sixteen of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

3. Where by the terms of any adjustment made pursuant to section seventeen of the principal Act any sum of money is payable by the Council of a county, the Council may raise such sum or any part thereof by way of special loan without taking the steps described 30 in sections eight to twelve of the Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1913.

4. (1.) Section twenty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the word "nine" and substituting the word "twelve."

(2.) Section fifty-nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by 35 omitting from subsection one the word "nine" and substituting the word "twelve."

(3.) Sections two and four of the Counties Amendment Act, 1908, are hereby repealed.

5. (1.) The roll required by section forty-five of the principal 40 Act shall be prepared on or before the twenty-second day of July in every year in which a general election of Councillors is to be held, and the said section is hereby modified accordingly.

(2.) The principal Act is hereby consequentially amended by omitting the words "April" and "May," wherever they occur in 45 sections forty-five to forty-nine, and substituting the words "July" and "August" respectively; and the references to the months of April and May in those sections shall be references to the months of July and August respectively in the year in which the roll is to be prepared and not in each year. 50

6. (1.) Any person may, on or before the twenty-second day of August, lodge with the Council an objection in writing under his hand to the county electors roll on any of the following grounds :---

Repeal.

Moneys payable on alteration of boundaries of counties,

Section 23 of principal Act amended.

Section 59 of principal Act amended.

Repeal.

County electors roll, when to be prepared.

Objections to county electors roll.

Counties Amendment.

- (a.) That any person whose name is on the said roll in respect of any qualification does not possess that qualification at the time when the objection is lodged;
- (b.) That any person whose name is not on the said roll possesses the necessary qualification at the time when the objection is lodged, and is entitled to have his name enrolled ;
- (c.) That the number of votes allotted to any person is greater or less than that to which he is entitled; or
- (d.) That any person whose name is on the roll has not paid all the rates he was liable to pay on or before the thirty-first day of December previous.

(2.) The Council shall forthwith, after receipt of any such objection, inquire into and dispose of the same.

- 7. (1.) The Council shall from time to time, upon any objection Amendment of 15 as aforesaid or of its own motion, amend the county electors roll of any riding by adding to the roll the name of any person who then in fact possesses the necessary qualification but is not entered thereon, and by erasing therefrom the name of any person who does not then in fact possess the necessary qualification but is entered thereon.
- (2.) The Council shall also from time to time make in the county 20electors roll any necessary corrections in the statement of the names, occupations, addresses, and qualifications of persons enrolled thereon.

(3.) Where the name of any person is erased from the roll for any reason other than the death of that person notice in writing of 25 the erasure shall forthwith be given by the Clerk by registered letter

addressed to the person whose name is so erased.

8. (1.) Any person aggrieved by any decision or act of the Appeals to Council touching the county electors roll may appeal therefrom by lodging with the Clerk of the Magistrate's Court nearest to

30 the place where the copy of the roll where the riding is kept, an objection in writing under his hand on any of the grounds mentioned in section six hereof.

(2.) A copy of the objection shall also forthwith be lodged with the County Clerk.

(3.) All such objections shall be heard by the Magistrate at such 35 convenient time and place as he appoints, and not less than three days' notice shall be given to the County Clerk and to the appellant of the place and time so appointed :

Provided that no appeal shall be considered after the date fixed 40 for the closing of the roll as hereinafter mentioned, unless notice thereof has been lodged not later than seven days after that date.

(4.) On the hearing of any such objection the Magistrate may order such alterations in and additions to the roll to be made as he thinks just.

(5.) All such alterations and additions shall be made by the 45County Clerk and initialled by the Magistrate.

9. The county electors roll for each riding shall come into force When roll to come on the first Wednesday in October, and shall be the electors roll into force. for the riding until a fresh roll comes into force as herein provided.

- 10. (1.) The county electors roll shall be deemed to be closed at Closing of the roll 50 five o'clock in the afternoon-
 - (a.) Of the day in which it comes into force in the case of a general election; and

Magistrate.

county electors roll

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(b.) Of the twenty-eighth day preceding the day appointed for any election other than a general election or for any poll.

(2.) Except pursuant to appeal under section eight hereof, in cases where the appeal was pending at the time when the roll was closed, no alteration or addition shall be made in or to the county 5 electors roll of any riding while it is closed as aforesaid.

11. (1.) Subsection two of section forty-nine, and sections fifty and fifty-one of the principal Act, are hereby repealed.

(2.) Section fifty-two of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "signed by the Clerk" and substituting the word 10 "closed."

12. (1.) For the taking of a poll on any proposal that is to be submitted to the votes of all the electors or ratepayers of a county, or to some only of those electors or ratepayers, the Clerk shall prepare from the county electors roll or rolls a roll com- 15 prising all the electors or ratepayers entitled to vote at such poll, but so that no person's name shall appear more than once on such roll:

Provided that for the purposes of any proposal to be submitted to all the electors or ratepayers of a county the rolls of the several ridings shall together be the roll required by this section.

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(2.) Except in the case mentioned in the proviso to the *last* preceding subsection such roll shall be corrected, completed, and authenticated in the manner hereinbefore provided in the case of the county electors roll of a riding.

13. Section eighty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended 25 by adding at the end of subsection one the words "or of any committee thereof or to attend to any business of the Council when authorized by resolution of the Council so to do," and by repealing subsection three.

14. (1.) Section eighty-two of the principal Act is hereby 30 amended by adding the words "or the Council may vote a lump sum, not exceeding the sum of one hundred pounds, to the Chairman in each year in lieu of travelling-expenses."

(2.) In any case where a Council has at any time since the first day of April, nineteen hundred and twelve, voted any sum or sums, 35 not exceeding in the aggregate in any one year the sum of one hundred pounds, for the travelling-expenses of the Chairman, such sum or sums shall be deemed without further inquiry to have been the actual travelling-expenses of the Chairman when travelling on the business of the county.

15. Subsection one of section ninety-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (b) the words "fifty-sixth" and substituting the word "seventieth."

16. Section ninety-eight of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection one, the following subsection :-- 45

"(1A.) A copy of every special order merging in a county any road district or any town district that forms part of the county, with a certificate signed by the Chairman or Clerk to the effect that the special order has been duly made, shall be sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs, and shall be gazetted by him, and the 50 special order shall take effect from the date of the gazetting thereof or from such later date as is specified in the order."

Repeals.

Section 52 of principal Act amended.

Clerk to prepare roll for purposes of poll.

Section 81 of principal Act amended.

Section 82 of principal Act amended.

Section 97 of principal Act amended.

Section 98 of principal Act amended.

17. (1.) Section one hundred and eighteen of the principal Act Section 118 of principal Act is hereby amended as follows :--amended.

(a.) By omitting from subsection one the words "in the riding," and substituting the words "for works in that riding and its proportionate part (on a rateable-value basis) of the amount required to be provided from general rates pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of section one hundred and twenty-eight hereof":

(b.) By repealing subsection three.

18. (1.) Subsection one of section one hundred and twenty- Section 128 of 10 eight of the same Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraphs (d) principal Act and (e) thereof, and substituting the following :-

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"(d.) The remainder of the gross estimated income shall be apportioned among the several ridings of the county in proportion to the total income estimated to be received from each riding.'

(2.) Subsection three of the said section one hundred and twenty-eight is hereby amended by adding the words "All such separate accounts shall be audited by the Audit Office."

- 2019. For the purposes of any drainage-works constructed or main- Drainage rate. tained by a Council under the authority of section one hundred and sixty-six of the principal Act, the Council may from time to time make and levy within the county, or within any district constituted under section one hundred and sixty-seven of the said Act, or
- 25 within any subdivision of such district, a drainage rate not exceeding one penny in the pound on the capital value of the rateable property within the county, or district, or subdivision, as the case may be.

20. Section one hundred and seventy of the principal Act is Repeal. 30 hereby amended by repealing subsections two to seven thereof.

21. (1.) Every drainage rate or special rate for drainage purposes Drainage rates to hereafter made under the principal Act or this Act shall be levied scale. on a graduated scale according to a classification to be made by the Council of the rateable property within the rating-area:

35Provided that if the Minister of Internal Affairs, on the request of the Council, and after due inquiry, is satisfied that all the lands liable to be rated will practically derive equal benefit from the drainage-works in respect of which any rate or special rate is proposed to be made and levied, he may authorize the Council to

40 make and levy such rate on a uniform scale.

(2.) For the purposes of this section the Council may from time Classification of to time appoint one or more fit persons to examine and classify all lands for rating purposes. rateable property within the rating-area into the following classes :---

(a.) Lands receiving or likely to receive immediate and direct benefit from the drainage-works;

- (b.) Lands receiving or likely to receive less direct benefit therefrom;
- (c.) Lands receiving or likely to receive only an indirect benefit therefrom; and

(d.) All other lands.

(3.) The rate shall be imposed upon the several classes in such proportions as the Council in each case appoints :

Provided that before the appointment of such proportions the Council shall cause public notice to be given of the respective pro-

amended.

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portions it proposes to appoint; and shall, at a meeting of the Council to be held after the expiration of a period of twenty-eight days after the first publication of such notice, consider all objections in writing (if any) received by the Council to such proposed proportions:

Provided also that the rate shall not be imposed on any property which has not received and is not likely to receive any benefit from the expenditure in respect of which the rate is made.

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(4.) Every classification so made shall be set forth in a list to be sealed with the common seal of the county, and the Council shall immediately cause public notice of such classification to be given, 10 and of the place where the classification-list may be inspected for a period of twenty-one days.

(5.) Any person who thinks himself aggrieved by such classification may appeal against the same on the ground that the land of the appellant, or any other land in the rating-area, has not been fairly 15 classified in accordance with the benefit received or likely to be received from the expenditure aforesaid, or has not been classified.

(6.) A notice of appeal setting out the grounds thereof shall, within seven days next after the expiration of the twenty-one days appointed for the inspection of the classification-list, be given to the 20 Clerk of the nearest Magistrate's Court, and a copy thereof shall within the same seven days be lodged at the public office of the Council.

(7.) The appeal shall be heard by the Magistrate at such convenient time and place as he appoints, of which not less than 25 three days' notice shall be given to the County Clerk and to the appellant.

(8.) On the hearing of any such appeal, the Magistrate may cause the classification-list to be amended in such manner as he thinks reasonable, and he shall sign the list as so amended, and the 30 determination of the Magistrate shall be final and conclusive.

(9.) Every classification-list sealed with the seal of the county, or signed by a Magistrate in the case of any such appeal as aforesaid, shall, for the purpose of any proceedings for the recovery of rates, be sufficient evidence of a classification duly made by the Council 35 in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

(10.) The classification-list may from time to time be amended by the Board :

Provided that no such amendment shall have effect until the expiration of two months after the service of notice of the amend- 40 ment on all ratepayers affected thereby. The provisions of this section relating to appeals and to the authentication of the classification-list shall apply to every such amendment of the list.

22. The County Chairman, not being the holder of a publican's or accommodation license, shall be a Justice of the Peace during 45 the time he holds the office of Chairman.

23. The County Clerk shall, upon every election of a County Chairman, forthwith give notice thereof to the Minister of Internal Affairs.

24. Section one hundred and forty-two of the principal Act is 50 hereby repealed.

25. (1.) For the purposes of any harbour-works a Council may, where there is no Harbour Board, or where the Council has been appointed a Harbour Board, borrow moneys by way of special loan in the manner prescribed by the Local Bodies' Loans Act, 55 1913:

Appeal from classification.

Notice of appeal.

Amendment of classification.

Sealed copy of classification-list to be receivable in evidence.

Amendment of classification-list.

County Chairman to be Justice of the Peace.

Notice of election of Chairman.

Repeal.

Power to borrow. for harbour-works.

Provided that moneys so borrowed shall not be expended in the maintenance or repair of any harbour-work or for any purpose other than the construction or acquisition of the harbour-works for which they were borrowed. 5(2.) Section one hundred and eighty-six of the principal Act is Repeal. hereby repealed. 26. Section two of the Counties Amendment Act, 1910, is Section 2 of hereby amended by inserting, after the words "the Governor may," Amendment Act, 1910, amended. the words "from time to time"; by inserting, after the word 10 "Sounds," the words "or in any of those counties"; and by

inserting, after the word "Peninsula," the words "or in any of those counties."

27. (1.) A Council to which a license to construct or use an council may electric line has been issued under section two of the Public Works supply electric Amendment Act 1011 may supply electric light and power to 15 Amendment Act, 1911, may supply electric light and power from inhabitants of that electric line to the inhabitants of the county within the limits of county. the license, and may exercise within those limits all powers necessary

for that purpose. (2.) Such supply shall for all purposes be deemed a public work.

20(3.) The Council may from time to time fix a uniform price at which electric light or electric power shall be supplied to private consumers, and the times when the same shall be payable.

(4.) This section shall, *mutatis mutandis*, extend and apply to the Boards of road districts in counties in which the principal Act 25 is suspended.

28. (1.) In this and the next succeeding sections—

"Worker" includes every person, male or female, who is employed in work of any kind or in manual labour:

"Workers' dwellings " includes land, not exceeding five acres of first-class land, ten acres of second-class land, and twenty acres of third-class land, as defined by the Land Act, 1908, surrounding the dwelling.

(2.) The Council may, on any land purchased, acquired, or Council may erect appropriated by it for the purpose, erect, for occupation by workers workers workers 35 employed or resident in the County, any buildings suitable for dwellings. workers' dwellings, or may purchase or otherwise acquire any buildings, with or without lands, for such purpose, and may convert any buildings into workers' dwellings, and may alter, enlarge, repair, and improve the same respectively, and fit up, furnish, and supply

40 the same or any of them respectively with all requisite furniture, fittings, and conveniences.

(3.) The Council may make by-laws in reference to the letting of By-laws. workers' dwellings.

(4.) The Council shall manage and control every worker's Management. 45 dwelling that it so fits up, furnishes, and supplies as aforesaid.

(5.) The Council may make reasonable charges for the tenancy Charges. or occupation of the workers' dwellings provided under this or the next succeeding section.

(6.) The acquisition of land and erection of workers' dwellings Acquiring land a 50 for the purposes of this and the next succeeding section shall be deemed "public work."

a public work within the meaning of the Public Works Act, 1908.

29. (1.) In addition to the powers conferred on Councils by Modes of dealing the last preceding section, a Council may-

(a.) Let to a worker, for the purpose of a worker's dwelling, any land which it is empowered to lease for any purpose for a term exceeding twenty-one years; and may either itself

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Interpretation.

with workers' dwellings.

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Counties Amendment.

erect a worker's dwelling thereon, or may lend money to the lessee to enable him to erect a worker's dwelling thereon, and may provide for the repayment of any such loan, with interest, by instalments as hereinafter mentioned. Any such lease may be granted on any of the 5 tenancies authorized by section five of the Public Bodies' Leases Act, 1908. If such lease is granted on the terms mentioned in the First or in the Second Schedule to that Act, then to the extent to which the worker's dwelling has been paid for by the lessee (whether out of his own 10 moneys or by repayments by instalments of the loanmoneys), the worker's dwelling shall be deemed an improvement effected by the lessee during his tenancy :

- (b.) Advance money to a worker to enable him to acquire land and erect a worker's dwelling thereon, and may provide 15 for the repayment of the advance with interest by instalments:
- (c.) Sell to a worker any separate worker's dwelling on such terms as the Council thinks fit, and, in particular, may provide for the payment of the purchase-money (after de- 20 ducting the amount of any deposit paid by the purchaser) with interest by instalments.

(2.) In any case mentioned in this section where money is advanced to a worker, or any purchase-money is unpaid, interest 25shall be paid at the rate of five per centum per annum.

(3.) In any case mentioned in this section where provision is made for the repayment of any advance, or for the payment of any purchase-money by instalments, such instalments may be made weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, as may be arranged, for a period of twenty-five and a half years, and shall be calculated at the rate of 30 seven per centum of the amount of the advance or of the purchasemoney, less any deposit paid by the purchaser.

(4.) Every weekly or other instalment made as aforesaid shall consist partly of principal and partly of interest, and the amount of principal and interest respectively paid during each period of six 35 months shall be calculated according to the scale in the Schedule hereto.

(5.) In any case where the provisions of the *last preceding* section or this section are for any reason found to be ineffectual or inapplicable to the circumstances of any particular case, or class 40 of cases, the Governor may, at the request of the Council, by regulations, make special directions providing for any such special case or class of cases, and for the removal of any technical or other difficulty preventing the Council from exercising the powers intended to be conferred by those sections, and any such direction shall have the 45 same force of law as if it were enacted in this Act; and every contract entered into by the Council, whether with a worker or any other person, or with any lender of money, in pursuance of or under the authority of any such direction, shall be valid and effectual for 50all purposes.

Extended powers of Councils

30. The Council may-

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- (a.) Quarry, purchase, and sell road-metal or other material for roadmaking on such terms as it thinks fit :
- (b.) Quarry, burn, purchase, and sell lime on such terms as it 55 thinks fit. مىتمم كتلفيدين بالتساري با

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

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TABLE SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST CONTAINED IN A HALF-YEARLY PAYMENT OF £3 10s. FOR EVERY £100 OF UNPAID PURCHASE-MONEY OR LOAN AT 5 PER CENTUM INTEREST.

	Half-year.			-	Apportioned thus:		Balance
				Half- yearly Instalment.	On Account of Interest at 5 per Centum.	On Account of Principal.	of Principal owing.
			<u> </u>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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By Authority : JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer. Wellington.---1913.