

Hon. Sir J. G. Ward.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' SUBSIDIES.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Better Provision for the Payment of Subsidies to Local Authorities. **Title.**

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Local Authorities' Subsidies Act, 1906." **Short Title.**

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— **Interpretation.**
10 "Local authority" means the Council of a borough or county, or the Board of a road district or town district.

3. (1.) There shall be paid annually by the Colonial Treasurer by way of subsidy to local authorities out of the Consolidated Fund (without further appropriation than this Act) sums not exceeding in **Local government subsidies.**
15 the whole in any year the sum of one hundred thousand pounds.

(2.) The aforesaid sums shall be calculated in the manner herein-after appearing.

4. For the purpose of ascertaining the amount of subsidy payable in respect of every county the following provisions shall apply:— **In respect of counties how calculated and apportioned.**
20 (a.) The Clerk of each local authority within the county shall

forward to the Valuer-General, not later than the thirty-first day of May in each year, a statement showing the total amount of rates of whatever nature collected by the local authority within the preceding financial year.

25 (b.) The Valuer-General shall ascertain the total amount of rates collected by all the local authorities within the county, and the average of such rates in the pound on the total capital value of the rateable property of the county for the preceding year.

- (c.) Subsidy shall be calculated on so much of the total rates collected as is represented by—
- (i.) The first farthing of such average rate, at three shillings in the pound ;
 - (ii.) The second farthing, at three shillings and sixpence in the pound ; **5**
 - (iii.) The third farthing, at four shillings and sixpence in the pound ;
 - (iv.) The fourth farthing, at five shillings in the pound ; **10**
 - (v.) The fifth farthing, at five shillings and sixpence in the pound ; and
 - (vi.) The sixth farthing and upwards, at six shillings in the pound :

Provided that where the total rates collected by all the local authorities within the county exceed the sum of six thousand pounds no subsidy shall be calculated under subparagraph (i) hereof. **15**

- (d.) The amount of subsidy so calculated shall be apportioned by the Valuer-General between the County Council and the other local authorities within the county in proportion to the total amount of rates collected by each respectively : **20**

Provided that no greater sum than two thousand pounds shall be paid in respect of any county in any year, and if the amount of subsidy according to the foregoing scale exceeds that sum the sums apportioned to the County Council and the other local authorities within the county shall abate in proportion : **25**

Provided also that no greater sum than eighty-five thousand pounds shall be paid in any year in respect of all the counties, and if the total amount of subsidy according to the said scale in respect of all the counties exceeds that sum the sums payable in respect of each county shall abate in proportion. **30**

- 5.** For the purpose of ascertaining the amount of subsidy payable in respect of every borough the following provisions shall apply :— **35**

- (a.) The average rate within the borough shall be ascertained in the manner hereinbefore provided in the case of counties, and the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of the *last preceding* section shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply : **40**

Provided that the subsidy payable to any borough shall be one-third of the amount calculated under the *last preceding* section. **45**

- (b.) Where the total capital value of the rateable property in any borough exceeds five million pounds no subsidy shall be payable.

- (c.) No greater sum than three hundred and fifty pounds shall be paid in respect of any borough in any year. **50**

- (d.) No greater sum than fifteen thousand pounds shall be paid in any year in respect of all the boroughs, and if the

In respect of boroughs.

total amount of subsidy calculated as aforesaid in respect of all the boroughs exceeds that sum, the sums payable to each borough shall abate in proportion.

5 6. Where a portion of a county is formed into a new county, borough, town district, or road district, and no rates have been collected by the local authority of such new district during the year ending the thirty-first day of March next succeeding the formation of the new district, subsidy for the next ensuing year shall be calculated and paid as if the local authority had been a local authority
10 within the original county and had levied and collected the rates which were last levied and collected over the rateable property within its boundaries :

Constitution of new district.

15 Provided that the new local authority shall make application to the Valuer-General for the subsidy not later than the thirty-first day of May next after the formation of the district.

7. The Governor in Council may decide any questions arising in respect of the payment of subsidy under this Act.

Questions as to subsidy to be decided by Governor in Council.

8. The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council gazetted, make regulations for the effectual working of this Act.

Regulations.

20 9. The Schedule to "The Local Bodies' Finance and Powers Act, 1885," section eighty-nine of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1900," and section eight of "The Municipal Corporations Amendment Act, 1902," are hereby repealed.

Repeal.