

Hon. Mr. Duncan.

RABBIT NUISANCE.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1882."

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 Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1905"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1882" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act").

Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—
"Board" means a Board of Trustees constituted under Part II. of "The Rabbit Nuisance Act 1882 Amendment Act, 1886."

Interpretation.

3. (1.) The Board shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, divide the district into areas to be called sub-districts.

Subdivisions of rabbit districts.

(2.) Upon petition signed by not less than half of the county electors of any such area the Board may, by resolution publicly notified once a week for four consecutive weeks, declare any such area to be a sub-district with a distinctive name.

4. (1.) As soon as possible after such notification the Returning Officer of the Board shall prepare a roll containing the names of all county electors in the sub-district.

Roll of electors and elections.

(2.) Each elector shall be entitled to exercise votes according to the following scale :—

An owner or occupier of not more than one thousand acres of land to have one vote.

An owner or occupier of more than one thousand acres and not more than two thousand acres of land to have two votes.

An owner or occupier of more than two thousand acres of land to have three votes and no more.

(3.) The Returning Officer shall appoint a day, not more than eight weeks after the proclamation of the sub-district, for the election of a Committee of five persons to be called "The Rabbit Committee."

(4.) Every person on the roll aforesaid shall be eligible for election. 5

(5.) The members of the Committee elected under the provisions of this section shall hold office for three years.

(6.) In the event of an insufficient number of persons being elected the Board may fill any vacancies on the Committee. 10

(7.) The cost of an election shall be defrayed by the Board in the first instance, and shall be refunded to it by the Committee upon demand.

Chairman.

5. The Committee shall, within one month of the date of its first election, and thereafter in the last week of May in each year, elect a Chairman, who shall hold office until the appointment of his successor. 15

Officers and accounts.

6. (1.) The Committee may appoint a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall keep accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Committee. 20

(2.) Such accounts shall be balanced on the thirty-first day of December annually, and shall be audited by the Secretary of the Board.

(3.) Every Treasurer who fails to produce a balance-sheet as aforesaid, or neglects to keep accurate accounts, is liable to a fine not exceeding *fifty* pounds. 25

Committee to deal with rabbits.

7. The Committee shall, at its own charge and expense, take measures for the destruction of rabbits within the sub-district under its control.

Rating-power.

8. The Committee may make and levy rates annually on all rateable properties within its sub-district. Such rates shall not exceed two pence per acre on the capital value. 30

Board may exercise functions of Committee.

9. If the county electors fail to elect a Committee, the Board may exercise the functions of a Committee in taking measures for the destruction of rabbits, and may also levy rates as set forth in section *eight* hereof, in addition to the general rates levied by the Board. 35

Subsidy by the Board.

10. The Board may out of its general fund subsidise any Committee from time to time up to an amount of five shillings in the pound on the annual rate raised by the Committee.

Committee may be abolished.

11. If the Board is at any time satisfied that any Committee is not carrying out the provisions of this Act, it may abolish such Committee and carry out its work, and levy rates within the sub-district to meet the cost of such work. 40

Certain provisions of principal Act not to apply.

12. The provisions of sections eleven to twenty-four of "The Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1882," and "The Rabbit Nuisance Act Amendment Act, 1901," shall not apply in any sub-district. 45

Certain moneys payable to Board.

13. Section twelve of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following proviso:—

"Provided that where a rabbit district has been constituted under "The Rabbit Nuisance Act 1882 Amendment Act, 1886," 50 the said amount shall be paid to the Board of the district, and shall form part of its funds."

14. (1.) Where any sub-district under this Act is abolished its assets and liabilities shall be vested in and borne by the Board.

On abolition of sub-districts and Boards.

(2.) Where any Board is abolished its assets and liabilities shall be dealt with in such manner as the Governor in Council thinks just and equitable.

15. Boroughs and town districts are hereby excluded from the operation of Part II. of "The Rabbit Nuisance Act 1882 Amendment Act, 1886."

Boroughs and town districts.

16. Part III. of "The Rabbit Nuisance Act 1882 Amendment Act, 1886," and "The Rabbit-proof Wire-netting Fences Act, 1898," are hereby repealed.

Repeals.