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SMALL BIRDS NUISANCE.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to authorize Local Governing Bodies to appropriate Funds and to levy Rates for the Destruction of Sparrows and other Birds or Animals injurious to Crops. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the abatement of the injury caused to crops by the undue increase of sparrows and other birds and animals: Preamble.

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

5 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Small Birds Nuisance Act, 1882." Short Title.

2. In this Act the words "birds" and "animals" respectively mean any birds or animals not for the time being coming within the operation of any Act in force relating to the protection of animals; and the words "governing body" mean and include any County Council, Road Board, Borough Council, or Town Interpretation.

10 District Board.

3. Notwithstanding anything in any other Act contained, any governing body may from time to time, by an ordinary resolution thereof, apply so much as it shall think fit out of its general funds towards the destruction of any kind of birds or animals which, by their excessive increase, have become, or Governing body may apply funds to destruction of injurious birds or animals.

15 threaten to become, injurious to crops of any kind; or for the purpose of reducing the numbers of such birds or animals to such extent as may be necessary for the protection of such crops:

Provided always that the sum or sums so applied in any one year shall not exceed the amount which might be raised by the levy of a rate of three half- Limits of expenditure in any one year.

20 pence in the pound on the rateable value of any riding or ridings, or portion of a riding or ridings of any county to which such rate, and the expenditure of the sum raised thereby, may be limited, or by the levy of a rate of one halfpenny in the pound, if such rate and expenditure shall be general over the entire county, or by the levy of a rate of one halfpenny in the pound on the rateable value of Power to rate.

25 any borough, or by the levy of a rate of one penny in the pound on the rateable value of any town district:

And provided further that any governing body may levy such rate as aforesaid for the purpose of recouping the sum so expended. Moneys may be spent as may be deemed most expedient.

30 4. All such moneys may be spent in such manner as the governing body expending the same shall think most expedient for attaining the object in view, whether expended within or beyond the limits of the county, road district, borough, or town district over which such governing body has jurisdiction.

5. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, it shall not be competent to any governing body to levy any special rate for the purpose of raising funds Special rate may not be raised without consent of ratepayers.

35 to be applied towards carrying out the purposes of this Act, or to recoup any expenditure theretofore incurred, unless and until such governing body shall have received a petition signed by not fewer than one-third of the total number of resident ratepayers within the county, road district, borough or town district over which such governing body has jurisdiction, or in the case of a county or Power to rate.

40 road district of any part thereof over which it is desired that such rate shall be levied.