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Mr. Wilkinson.

TOLL-GATES ABOLITION.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Abolition of Toll-gates.

Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Toll-gates Abolition Act, 1919, and shall come into force on the first day of April, nineteen hundred and *nineteen*.

Short Title.

2. (1.) Sections one hundred and ninety-eight and two hundred and five of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1908 (relating to tolls), are hereby repealed, save as regards ferries and tolls thereat.

Repeals.

(2.) Sections one hundred and fifty-six to one hundred and seventy-five of the Public Works Act, 1908, and paragraph (f) of section thirteen of the Public Works Amendment Act, 1911 (relating to tolls), are hereby repealed, save as regards ferries and tolls thereat.

3. (1.) After the commencement of this Act, and notwithstanding anything in any public or local Act to the contrary, it shall not be lawful for any local authority to establish any toll-gate or to collect any toll from any person using any road, street, or bridge; and all toll-gates in existence on that date shall thereupon be abolished.

Abolition of toll-gates.

(2.) If any toll abolished by this Act has before the commencement of this Act been let, the lessee shall be entitled to a refund of a proportionate part of the rent paid by him for the toll in respect of the unexpired portion of the term of his lease.

Compensation to lessees of toll-gates.

4. On the application of a local authority having control of any road, street, or bridge on or at which a toll was in existence immediately before the commencement of this Act, the Governor-General shall appoint a Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1908, to inquire into and report as to what apportionment (if any) should be made of the cost of the maintenance of any such road, street, or bridge, and among what local authorities such apportionment should be made; and the provisions of sections one hundred and nine and one hundred and twenty of the Public Works Act, 1908, shall, with the necessary modifications, apply in respect to every such application and appointment.

Commission to apportion cost of maintenance of certain roads, &c.