

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, the 31st day of May, 1888.

COUNTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).

Hon. Mr. G. F. RICHARDSON, in Committee, to move the following new clause:—

After clause 1,—

1A. No county shall consist of less than two ridings; and where any existing county, not excepted from the said Act, consists of one riding only, the Governor by Proclamation may redivide such county into such number of ridings as he shall think fit, not exceeding nine; and also by the same or any subsequent Proclamation may divide any road district (if any) existing in such county into subdivisions or into separate districts in order to make conterminous the boundaries of the new ridings and road districts or subdivisions thereof.

1B. The Governor on petition may, by Proclamation, divide any county which is not less than fifteen hundred square miles in area, whether now existing, or which may hereafter be formed by the union of two or more existing counties, into not more than twelve ridings, with such names and boundaries as he shall think fit; but so that such ridings shall be constituted in manner to give effect to section twelve of the said Act; and by the same or any subsequent Proclamation shall fix the number of members to be elected by each such riding, but so that such number shall not exceed twelve, and there shall be at least one Councillor for each riding.

Section eighty-three of the said Act shall have force in respect of the Councillors of any county, the ridings whereof are increased as aforesaid.

Mr. SMITH to move the following new clauses:—

1c. Section one hundred and five of the said Act is hereby amended by the omission of the words “but not the committee meetings,” and the substitution in lieu thereof of the following: “and of not more than five councillors coming from a distance exceeding three miles to attend at not more than one committee meeting of the Council held in each month during the interval between the regular meetings of the Council.”

1d. Section one hundred and six of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

The Council may, from time to time, vote any sum not exceeding *one hundred* pounds in any one year, as a salary or bonus to the Chairman of the county, which shall be inclusive of all travelling expenses of the said Chairman when travelling on the business of the county.

1e. The following words are hereby added to section one hundred and seven of the said Act:—

In counties wherein the said Act is suspended, the Road Board or Town Board having jurisdiction throughout any licensing district may pay to the Clerk of each Licensing Committee within the district under their jurisdiction such sum as they shall from time to time determine.

Hon. Mr. G. F. RICHARDSON to move the following, after clause 2:—

2A. Whereas the County of Amuri immediately prior to the commencement of "The Counties Act 1876 Amendment Act, 1882," consisted of the two ridings of Tennyson and Te-Koa, and by an Order in Council of the twenty-fifth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, purporting to be made under the provisions of the last-mentioned Act, the Tennyson Riding became abolished, and the Te-Koa Riding was made to comprise the whole county by reason of there being only one undivided road district therein: And whereas the aforesaid road district became merged in the county by special order of the Council of such county on the ninth day of May, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, and the said Council failed at the same time to make any redivision of the county into ridings, but about the same time by another special order increased the number of members of the Council of the said county to eight, all elected or supposed to be elected to represent one riding: And whereas the constitution of the Council as aforesaid is illegal, and it is expedient to reapportion the ridings in the said county, and to dissolve the Council thereof:

Be it further enacted, as follows:—

- (1.) The Council of the County of Amuri is hereby dissolved, and the Te-Koa Riding of the said county is abolished;
- (2.) The Governor by Proclamation shall redivide the County of Amuri into such a number of ridings as he shall think fit, and appoint the number of members to be elected by each riding; and shall by Order in Council prescribe a time for the election of a new Council for the said county and for the first meeting of such Council, and by the same or any subsequent Order in Council may do all things necessary towards the duly carrying out and completing such election;
- (3.) The Councillors to be elected at the aforesaid election shall come into office on their election, and shall remain in office until the election of their successors at the triennial election which shall first occur after the year one thousand eight hundred and *eighty-nine*.

Mr. GRIMMOND to move the following new clause:—

The Council may apply any portion of the general funds of the county in making railway bridges and approaches available for dray traffic: Provided such expenditure shall be authorised by special order, and be first approved and sanctioned by the Minister for Public Works or the Railway Commissioners.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ACT 1888 AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. HUTCHISON, in Committee, to move the following:—

a. The Court before which any accused person shall be prosecuted or tried, or before which he may be committed or bailed to appear, for any felony or misdemeanour, is hereby authorised and empowered in its discretion to order payment to any person who shall appear before the Court on such recognizance to give evidence on behalf of the person accused, such payment to be according to the scale for payment of witnesses for the time being in force.

b. Where a person is charged with any offence whatsoever, whether punishable on indictment or on summary conviction, and whether solely or with others, the person charged and his wife or her husband, as the case may be, may be called as a witness at any stage of the proceedings at which witnesses may be called, other than an inquiry before a grand jury.

Provided as follows:—

- (1.) The person charged shall not be called as a witness without his consent :
- (2.) The wife or husband of the person charged shall not be called as a witness without the consent of that person, except in any case in which such wife or husband might have been compelled to give evidence before the passing of this Act :
- (3.) A person called as a witness in pursuance of this Act shall not be asked, and if asked shall not be required to answer, any question tending to show that any person charged has committed or been convicted of any offence other than that wherewith he is then charged, unless either—
 - (a.) The proof that the person charged has committed or been convicted of that other offence is admissible evidence to show that he is guilty of the offence wherewith he is then charged ; or,
 - (b.) The person charged has given evidence of good character.

c. Where a person charged with an offence is not defended by counsel or solicitor, then, on the completion of the examination of the witnesses on the part of the prosecution, the following caution, or words to the like effect, shall, before he is called as a witness, be addressed to him by or under the direction of the Court or Justice before whom he is charged ; (that is to say), “Having heard the evidence against you, do you wish to be called as a witness and give evidence in answer to the charge? You are not obliged to be called and give evidence unless you wish, but if you are called, the evidence you give may be used against you.”

d. Section eighty of the said Act is hereby repealed.

Sir J. HALL, in Committee, to move the following additional clause:—

The authority to take and receive a valutory declaration, conferred by the two hundred and thirty-fourth section of the said Act, shall extend to and include any person holding the office of Postmaster under “The Post Offices Act, 1881,” whom the Governor may, from time to time, by a notification in the *Gazette*, declare authorised for that purpose.

Mr. FELDWICK, in Committee, to move the following:—

Subsection two of section fourteen of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following subsection is enacted in substitution thereof, that is to say,—

- (2.) Such recognisance may be entered into by the principal or either of the sureties thereto before any Justice or Justices of the Peace, and it shall not be necessary for all the parties to the said recognisance to be present at the same time.