

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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Monday, the 27th day of August, 1883.

NOTICES RELATING TO ORDERS OF THE DAY.

COUNTIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Hon. Major ATKINSON, in Committee, to move the following new clause after clause 24 :—

The Council, with the consent of the ratepayers of the county, to be ascertained as provided by the said Act in relation to a proposal to raise a special loan, may contract with any person or persons or body corporate for the advance of the moneys necessary for the construction of a bridge or bridges in connection with any county road or roads, and in such contract may covenant, on behalf of the corporation of the county, to levy and collect tolls or charges for the use of such bridges on completion thereof, and may pledge such tolls and charges in security for the repayment of any such moneys advanced as aforesaid.

Every such contract shall be made upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, but subject to the condition that the tolls and charges aforesaid shall be pledged only for some specified time; and every such contract shall be valid and binding notwithstanding that no bridge was erected or tolls collected at the time of the making of such contract.

Mr. CADMAN to move,—

After the coming into operation of this Act the Chairman of the Council shall be elected by the ratepayers, as hereinafter provided.

Mr. PYKE to move,—

The Chairman of the County Council shall be elected by the county electors, and shall hold office for and during the term of *two* years from the date of his election, unless his office shall sooner become vacant from any cause, in which case a Chairman shall be elected in the manner aforesaid for the remainder of the said term of *two* years.

The first election of a Chairman hereunder shall be taken and held on the Wednesday in November next ensuing.

Mr. SMITH to move the following new clause :—

OF ALTERING THE BOUNDARIES OF ROAD DISTRICTS.

The Council of any county may, with respect to road districts situated in such county, by special order, alter the boundaries of such road districts, and declare that from and after a day to be named in such order the new boundaries set forth in such order shall be the boundaries of such road districts, subject, however, to the following conditions :—

- (1.) That a petition is presented to the Council setting forth the boundaries of the proposed new district, signed by two-thirds of the ratepayers comprised in the portions of such proposed new road district, praying the Council to constitute such new road district :
- (2.) That such petition is publicly notified not less than one month before presentation to the Council.

Mr. WRIGHT to move the addition of the following at the end of the Bill:—

COUNTY RIVER BOARDS.

1. The Governor, if he thinks fit, may by Proclamation declare the Council of any county to be the Board of Conservators under any Act for the time being in force relating to the management of rivers (herein referred to as a "Rivers Act"), in respect of any river district constituted under such Act the limits whereof are entirely included within the limits of such county, subject to the conditions following:—

- (1.) That a petition of the majority of the ratepayers of the river district is presented to the Governor in that behalf, after such petition has been previously publicly notified in the district for not less than thirty days; and
- (2.) That a resolution of the County Council to be affected by such petition concurring in the prayer thereof is transmitted to the Governor:

Provided that, on the proposed constitution of a new river district, it shall be sufficient if the matter of the above-mentioned petition be included in any petition presented to the Governor praying him to constitute such district; and in such case a separate petition shall not be necessary, but the resolution of the Council shall be indispensable in all cases:

2. Every Proclamation issued under the foregoing section shall take effect on a day certain, to be specified therein; and on the coming into effect of such Proclamation—

- (1.) All provisions of the Rivers Act under which the river district is constituted which relate to the election of members of Boards of Conservators, their number, their continuance in office or retirement therefrom, shall be suspended from operation within the district for the whole time wherein the Proclamation aforesaid remains in force:
- (2.) The County Council for the time being in office shall be the Board of Conservators for the river district, and shall have and may exercise all the functions, powers, and duties granted to such Board by the Rivers Act which is in force within the provincial district wherein the county is situated, subject as follows:—

The Council may exercise all such powers and duties, in addition to their ordinary jurisdiction under "The Counties Act, 1876"; and their proceedings as a Board of Conservators shall be regulated under such last-named Act, instead of under the Rivers Act aforesaid; excepting that—

All property rateable under the Rivers Act within the river district shall be rated under the said Act, and not under "The Counties Act, 1876"; but the rates when collected shall be paid into a separate account in the County Fund, and may be administered under "The Counties Act, 1876," but shall be applied only for the purposes for which the same were levied.

- (3.) Every County Council constituted a Board of Conservators shall have not only the powers of such Boards under the Rivers Act in force in the river district, but also all powers granted to such Boards under any other Act of the General Assembly.

3. The Governor, if he think fit, may revoke any Proclamation in whole, or as to so much thereof as declares a County Council to be a Board of Conservators; whereupon all suspended provisions of any Rivers Act shall be revived and come into operation again on the day of the coming into effect of such Proclamation in the river district affected thereby.