

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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Friday, the 14th Day of August, 1891.

COUNTIES ACT 1886 AMENDMENT.

Mr. PALMER to move, on the order being read for the committal of "The Counties Act 1886 Amendment Act, 1891," that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider of an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to make provision for the following increased rates, as per the following clause to be inserted in the said Bill as an additional subsection to section 12 thereof, to wit:—

(3.) In addition to the rates mentioned in the last two subsections, the Council of any county may from time to time make and levy an additional rate (hereinafter called "the absentee-rate") in the following cases, to wit:—

(a.) Where the owner of the property to be rated resides in New Zealand, but out of the provincial district wherein the property to be rated is situated, then an additional rate not exceeding ten per centum over and above the rates levied under the two preceding subsections;

(b.) Where the owner of the property to be rated resides out of New Zealand, then an additional rate not exceeding fifty per centum over and above the rates levied under the two preceding subsections:

Provided that such absentee-rate shall be levied and assessed on only the unimproved value of the property so assessed, and such unimproved value shall be determined by deducting the value of all improvements from the value at which the property is assessed; and such unimproved value shall be ascertained, fixed, and assessed in the like manner and at the same time that the ordinary assessments are made.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

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

*Amendments.*

(a.) Section seventy-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding after the word "borough," in the first line, the following words: "together with the residents within the boundaries of the same [the borough], whose names appear on the parliamentary roll for the electoral district." And by further adding at the close of the section as follows: "And for the purposes of this election the Town Clerk shall prepare a Mayoral-roll in terms of this section, and this roll shall be open for public inspection on and after the first day of November in each year."

(b.) Add the following additional subsection to section two hundred and seventy-five of the principal Act:—

(6.) Provided always that the Council shall be bound, on the requisition of any owner of private property who cannot obtain drainage except by taking it through neighbouring private property or properties, to proceed, according to the aforesaid subsections, with the view of carrying out such drainage to the nearest or most accessible public drain.

And it is further hereby provided that objections urged by opposing parties, which only affect the amenity of the property or properties to be drained through, or objections which are only personal, shall not be regarded by the Council as sufficient reasons for declining to execute the drainage of any private property, and the Council, on a review of the facts, may set aside such reasons as insufficient, and forthwith have such drainage executed at the expense of the owner of the property who requires the same.

*New Clauses.*

Power is hereby given to Councils to acquire land unbuilt upon, situated within their boundaries, for public purposes, compulsorily, at the price paid for the same by the owner thereof, with four per centum per annum added to that price for the time the land has been held by him.

In framing by-laws the Council is hereby empowered, in the matter of the several offences hereinafter enumerated, where no allegation of damage to property has been made, and where nothing of a wilful or malicious or criminal character is charged against the offender, to fix a minimum penalty for these offences respectively. And any person summoned for an offence in respect whereof a minimum penalty is provided as aforesaid may pay such penalty without costs to the Clerk of the Court to which he is summoned, and thereupon no further proceedings in the case shall be taken against such person. But nothing herein contained shall render it obligatory upon the said person to pay such penalty if he prefer to have the case determined by the Court.

The penalties exigible under "The Police Offences Act, 1884," for the same hereinafter enumerated offences are hereby brought under the operation of these clauses, and shall be modified and settled in the terms thereof, anything in the said Police Offences Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

The following offences shall be dealt with by a minimum penalty as aforesaid :—

- Wheeling any vehicle upon a public footpath ;
- Placing timber, bricks, or other materials in any public place, without permission of the Council ;
- Leaving any encumbrance on a public place ;
- Burning combustible materials so as to endanger property ;
- Opening any drain or sewer without permission of the Council ;
- Exposing for sale any article outside of any doorway opening on any public place ;
- Beating carpets, flying kites, playing at any game whereby persons may be annoyed ;
- Throwing stones or other missiles ;
- Leaving any horse or horses and vehicle without any person in charge, or without locked wheel ;
- Riding or driving on any street or roadway so rapidly as to endanger public safety ;
- Overcrowding public conveyances ;
- Cattle straying on any public place ;
- Chimneys on fire ;
- Vehicles driven without lights after sunset.