

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, the 25th Day of August, 1892.

WEST COAST SETTLEMENTS RESERVES BILL.

Mr. G. HUTCHISON, in Committee, to move,—

To insert in subclause (2) of clause 8, line 29, after the word “acres,” the words “of first-class land, or more than two thousand acres of second-class land.”

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

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

RATING.

(1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in “The Rating Act, 1876,” and the several subsequent Acts amending the same, the rates in every borough, from and after the thirty-first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, shall be assessed and levied on property in accordance with values to be determined as follows:—

- (a.) The land shall be valued separately, and as distinguished from buildings and other improvements erected thereon. The land shall be valued according to its selling-price, deducting therefrom ten per centum; and the buildings and improvements shall be valued by themselves at their selling price, deducting therefrom twenty per centum.
 - (b.) The rate-book of each borough shall set forth distinctly the rateable value of the land in one column, and the rateable value of the buildings and other improvements in another column; and the rate-book so prepared shall be open to inspection and revisal in all respects as prescribed by “The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876.”
 - (c.) The rates levied upon the land shall be borne by the person or persons claiming the ownership of such land. Each owner shall pay such rates for himself, and in those cases where, for convenience, the rates on the land may be collected from the occupier or lessor, each such occupier or lessor shall be entitled to deduct the amount of the same from the rent payable to the owner.
 - (d.) In respect of any contracts or agreements legally subsisting at the date of the coming into operation of these provisions, and purporting to make any other than the owners of land liable for rates upon the same, in so far, any such contracts or agreements shall be void and of no effect: Provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to render liable for rates any property at present exempt from rates, nor to affect the application of any rates levied as security for loans.
- (2.) All vacant sections of land shall be valued at their selling-price as aforesaid and rated accordingly.

ELECTION OF MAYOR.

Section 80 to be amended by adding after the word “borough,” in the first line, the following words, “together with the electors within the boundaries of the same who are not burgesses, but whose names appear upon the electoral roll of the borough for the time being;” and by further adding, after the word “election,” in the fourth line, as follows: “And for the purposes of the said election the Town Clerk shall prepare a mayoral roll in terms of this clause, and this roll so prepared shall be open for public inspection on and after the first day of November in each year.”

COMPULSORY ACQUIREMENT OF LAND.

Strike out clause 234, and substitute the following clause :—

The Council may compulsorily acquire for public purposes any land unbuilt upon within the boundaries of the borough, on giving the owner six months' intimation of the Council's intention to do so, and advertising the same at least once a week for four consecutive weeks in one or more of the local newspapers. The price to be paid for land so acquired shall be 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.

DRAINAGE ON PRIVATE LANDS.

Add to clause 287 the following subsection :—

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, so as to carry out such drainage to the nearest or most accessible public drain ; but on such conditions as to payment of expenses and damage as may be found necessary.

BY-LAWS.

The Council shall have power, from time to time, to make, alter, or repeal general by-laws for the objects following :—

Prescribing a fixed penalty, to such an amount as they shall think fit, for any breach, not being of an offensive, or malicious, or criminal character, of certain by-laws, to be specified in such general law, upon payment whereof proceedings against the offender shall be stayed.

Any person summoned for an offence in respect whereof a fixed penalty is provided as aforesaid may pay such penalty and the costs of the summons 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.

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 fixed 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.