

(21)

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

AID TO PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND SETTLEMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to authorise the Raising of Money in Aid of certain Public Works and Purposes, and also to provide for the Renewal of certain Outstanding Debentures. Title.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Aid to Public Works and Land Settlement Act, 1899." Short Title.

10 RAISING OF MONEYS.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Colonial Treasurer, upon being authorised by the Governor in Council so to do, is hereby empowered to raise from time to time, in the colony or elsewhere, by debentures or scrip, or by the creation or issue of inscribed stock under "The New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877," or otherwise, such sums of money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of one million pounds, as he thinks fit; and for that purpose he may from time to time exercise all or any of the following powers, that is to say:—

Colonial Treasurer
may raise £1,000,000.

15 (1.) He may prescribe the mode and conditions of repayment of the sums so raised, the rates of interest thereon, and the times and places of the payment of principal and interest respectively:

No. 103—1.

(2.) He may agree that debentures or stock issued by him shall be converted into stock created or issued under "The New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877," and may either specify the terms of such conversion at the time when the aforesaid sums are raised, or arrange that such terms shall be subsequently agreed upon. 5

Until loan raised
short-dated debentures
may be issued.

3. Pending the raising, under section *two* hereof, of the moneys thereby authorised to be raised, the Colonial Treasurer may from time to time raise such sums as he thinks fit by the sale, hypothecation, or mortgage of short-dated debentures, and with respect to such short-dated debentures the following special provisions shall apply:— 10

(1.) They shall bear interest at such rate (not exceeding four per centum per annum), and be for such amounts, and have such currency (not exceeding seven years from the date of issue), and be in such form (with or without coupons), and be payable, both as to principal and interest, at such times and places, and be transferable and negotiable in such manner as the Colonial Treasurer prescribes. 15

(2.) The Colonial Treasurer may accept short-dated debentures in payment or exchange for any debentures, scrip, or stock issued under section *two* hereof. 20

(3.) In order to provide for the payment of the principal sum named in any short-dated debenture, or whenever any short-dated debenture is accepted in payment or exchange as provided in the *last-preceding* subsection hereof, the Colonial Treasurer may issue short-dated debentures for an amount equal to the short-dated debentures to be or which have been paid off or accepted in payment or exchange as aforesaid. 25 30

(4.) The amount of all outstanding short-dated debentures, together with the amount of all outstanding debentures, scrip, or stock issued under section *two* hereof shall at no time exceed one million pounds.

Agents for raising
money outside of
colony.

4. In the event of it being deemed convenient that any of the moneys authorised to be raised under this Act should be raised in Great Britain, or elsewhere than in the colony, the Colonial Treasurer may from time to time, by warrant under his hand, appoint any two or more persons as Agents for raising the same, and may also in like manner confer upon such Agents all such powers as he deems necessary in order to carry into effect the purposes of this Act. 35 40

Powers of Agents.

5. In addition to the powers conferred upon such Agents by the Colonial Treasurer in the warrant appointing them, or in any subsequent warrant, they shall have all the powers by this Act hereinbefore conferred upon him, including the power to raise from time to time by debentures (whether short-dated or otherwise) or by scrip, or by the creation or issue of inscribed stock under "The New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877," such sums, not exceeding in the whole the sum of one million pounds, as they think fit: 45

Provided that the expressed inclusion of the last-mentioned power shall not be construed to in any way limit the operation of this section. 50

6. All or any of the powers conferred upon such Agents by this Act, or by the Colonial Treasurer, may by them be delegated from time to time, in all or in part, to two or more other persons, as delegated Agents, in such manner and subject to such conditions as the delegating Agents think fit. Delegation of powers.
7. The Colonial Treasurer may from time to time remove or accept the resignation of any Agent, whether appointed by him or by the aforesaid delegating Agents; and in any such case, or if any such Agent dies, the Colonial Treasurer may appoint another person in his stead. Removal of Agents.
8. All or any of the powers by this Act conferred upon the Colonial Treasurer (including the powers relating to Agents) may be delegated by him to the Agent-General of New Zealand in London. Delegation of powers to Agent-General.
9. Notice of any such delegation as last aforesaid may be given to the Agent-General by telegraphic message from the Colonial Treasurer, and the fact that the Agent-General exercises any such powers shall be conclusive evidence of his authority so to do. Notice of delegation.
10. No debenture, scrip, or other security created or issued in respect of any moneys raised under this Act shall be sold or otherwise disposed of by the Colonial Treasurer, the Agent-General, or the aforesaid Agents at a price that will yield to the purchaser a higher rate of interest by the year than four pounds for every hundred pounds of purchase-money in the case of short-dated debentures, and three pounds ten shillings for every hundred pounds in any other case; but such debentures, scrip, or other securities may, for the purpose of temporary advances pending the raising of the aforesaid moneys, be hypothecated or mortgaged by him or them, upon such terms as to interest and otherwise as are deemed expedient. Maximum rate of interest.
11. (1.) Every such debenture, scrip, or other security shall be signed by the Colonial Treasurer or (as the case may be) by the Agent-General or the aforesaid Agents raising the aforesaid moneys, and shall be countersigned by the Controller and Auditor-General, or by an officer of Audit to be appointed from time to time for that purpose by the Controller and Auditor-General. How debentures, scrip, &c., to be signed.
- (2.) The fact that any officer of Audit so countersigns shall be conclusive evidence of his authority so to do.
- (3.) The sum of money named in any such debenture, scrip, or other security, together with all interest payable in respect thereof, is hereby declared to be a charge upon and to be payable out of the public revenues of New Zealand. Charge on public revenues.
12. No person from whom any part of the aforesaid moneys is raised, or who is the holder of any debenture, scrip, or other security in respect of such moneys, shall be concerned to see or inquire whether or to what extent the powers conferred by or under this Act have been previously exercised, or are intended to be exercised; and all moneys raised or purporting to be raised, and all debentures, scrip, or other securities created or issued or purporting to be created or issued under this Act shall, so far as concerns the lender or holder, be deemed to have been lawfully raised, created, or issued within the powers by this Act conferred in that behalf. Security for persons lending moneys.

Prior securities not affected.

13. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to alter or affect or vary any security heretofore charged on the public revenues of New Zealand.

Moneys raised to be credited to Public Works Fund, and applied for works and purposes in Schedule.

14. All moneys raised in respect of the said sum of one million pounds shall as and when raised be paid into the Public Account to the credit of the Public Works Fund, and shall from time to time be applied to the works and purposes specified in the Schedule hereto in such amounts as are from time to time appropriated by Parliament: Provided nevertheless that, without further authority or appropriation than this Act, the following special provisions shall apply with respect to the moneys credited as aforesaid to the Public Works Fund:—

Cost of raising moneys.

(1.) The costs and expenses incurred in raising the aforesaid moneys shall be charged to and paid out of the Public Works Fund. 15

(2.) Any of the aforesaid moneys may from time to time be applied in paying off short-dated debentures, nevertheless to the extent only to which the proceeds of such debentures have been paid into the Public Works Fund. 20

(3.) Any of the aforesaid moneys appropriated to specific roads or bridges may from time to time be paid over in whole or in part to the local authority in whose district the works are situate, or under whose control such works are usually performed, upon such terms and conditions as in each case the Minister in charge determines by agreement with such local authority. 25

Temporary investment of moneys.

(4.) Any of the aforesaid moneys may, until required for the purposes of this Act, be temporarily invested from time to time, as the Colonial Treasurer directs, in any Government securities, or in any securities wherein for the time being any balances in the Public Account may lawfully be invested; and all interest received in respect of any such investment shall be paid into the Public Account and form part of the Consolidated Fund. 30

RENEWAL OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING DEBENTURES.

Debentures under "Native Land Purchase Act, 1892," may be renewed.

15. Debentures issued under "The Native Land Purchase Act, 1892," may from time to time be renewed under "The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894," in like manner in all respects as if they had been lawfully issued under the last-mentioned Act. 35

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

Works and Purposes.	Amounts.	
1. In respect of railways,—		
The construction of the following railways—		
Kawakawa—Grahamstown	}	
Paeroa—Waihi		
Gisborne—Karakā		
Helensville northwards		
North Island Main Trunk		
Rimutaka Deviation		
Waipara—Cheviot		
Midland—		
Springfield		
Otira		
Belgrove		
Tadmor		
Blenheim—Awatere		
Otago Central		
Heriot Extension		
Catlin's Extension		
Seaward Bush		
Forest Hill		
Orepuki—Waiau Ferry		
Additional rolling-stock for open lines and such other works and purposes in connection therewith as may be authorised	225,000	
		525,000
2. In respect of land settlement and goldfields development—		
The construction of roads, tracks, and bridges for the purpose of opening up back blocks, and such other works and purposes in connection therewith as may be authorised	150,000	
The like for the purpose of opening up Crown and Native lands	150,000	
The like for the purpose of developing the goldfields	50,000	
		350,000
3. Public and technical school buildings		50,000
4. Purchase of Native lands		50,000
5. Contingent harbour-defence		25,000
		£1,000,000

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1899.