

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

COUNTIES ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	3. Increased rating-power.
1. Short Title.	4. Council may establish or assist fire brigade.
2. Alteration of boundaries of road district or riding.	5. In certain cases Governor may validate proceedings, or extend time for doing anything. Repeal.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Counties Act, 1886."

Title.

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 Counties Act Amendment Act, 1903," and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Counties Act, 1886" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act").

Short Title.

2. (1.) No alteration of the boundaries of any road district or riding of a county shall have effect until the expiration of the financial year in which the alteration is made, nor unless the special order making the alteration is gazetted on or before the first day of October next after the date of the order:

Alteration of boundaries of road district or riding.

Provided that where the special order is gazetted after the first day of October in any financial year it shall not have effect until the expiration of the following financial year.

(2.) "Financial year" means the period of twelve months ending on the thirty-first day of March in every year.

3. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act, the maximum general rate that may be made and levied in any year shall be:—

Increased rating power.

(a.) In outlying districts, a rate of threepence in the pound on the capital value of the rateable property therein, or its equivalent on the unimproved value; and

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(b.) In all other parts of the county a rate of three half-pence in the pound on such capital value, or its equivalent as aforesaid.

(2.) The principal Act is hereby consequentially amended—

(c.) As to section one hundred and forty-eight thereof: By repealing all words after "purposes of this Act" to the end of the section; and

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(d.) As to section one hundred and forty-nine thereof: By repealing the words "which are wholly or partly divided into road districts, town districts, and outlying districts respectively," and also by repealing the words "three farthings in the pound on the rateable value therein," and substituting in lieu thereof the words "the prescribed maximum rate." 5

Council may establish or assist fire brigade.

4. The Council may from time to time, out of the County Fund, establish fire brigades in such localities as it thinks fit, and provide all necessary appliances and buildings required in connection therewith, or may agree with any fire brigade or other persons as to providing the necessary appliances and labour for the purpose of extinguishing fires, and for the payment out of the County Fund of such remuneration by way of gratuity to such brigade or persons as the Council thinks fit. 10 15

In certain cases Governor may validate proceedings, or extend time for doing anything.

5. (1.) In any case where anything is omitted to be done or cannot be done at the time required by the principal Act or this Act, or is done after such time, or is otherwise irregularly done in matter of form, or sufficient provision is not made by the principal Act, the Governor may, by Order in Council gazetted, at any time before or after the time within which such thing is required to be done, extend such time, or validate anything so done after the time required or so irregularly done in matter of form, or make other provision for such case as he thinks fit. 20

Repeal.

(2.) This section is in substitution for section three hundred and twenty-two of the principal Act, which section is hereby accordingly repealed. 25