

Right Hon. Mr. Massey.

OTAU LAND DRAINAGE.

[LOCAL BILL.]

ANALYSIS.

Title.	
1. Short Title.	5. Board may levy separate rates over any portion of the district for special works.
2. Empowering the Otaua Land Drainage Board to levy rates on acreage basis.	6. Separate rate may be levied uniformly or on graduated scale according to existing classification.
3. Ratepayers list to be prepared showing area held by each ratepayer.	7. Application of moneys received from such rate.
4. Number of votes exercisable by each ratepayer according to area of land held.	8. Saving existing powers of the Board.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to empower the Otaua Land Drainage Board to levy Rates on an Acreage Basis and to levy Separate Rates over Portions of the District controlled by the Board. 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. This Act may be cited as the Otaua Land Drainage Act, 1916. Short Title.

10 2. The Otaua Land Drainage Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) may make and levy rates (whether general, special, or separate rates) on an acreage basis on a graduated scale according to the classification of the lands in the Otaua Land Drainage District (hereinafter referred to as the district) from time to time existing and made under the Land Drainage Act, 1908, and its amendments, 15 but the amount of general, special, and separate rates for all purposes shall not exceed *four* shillings per acre in any year. Empowering the Otaua Land Drainage Board to levy rates on acreage basis.

15 3. The Returning Officer shall prepare a ratepayers list in the manner provided by the Land Drainage Act, 1908, except that there shall be inserted opposite the name of each ratepayer the total area of rateable land held by him within the subdivision (if any), and the classification of such lands, in lieu of the value thereof. Ratepayers list to be prepared showing area held by each ratepayer.

20 4. (1.) At all elections and polls of ratepayers every person whose name appears on the ratepayers roll shall be entitled to exercise the number of votes following, that is to say:— Number of votes exercisable by each ratepayer according to area of land held

(a.) If he appears as the occupier of rateable land not exceeding forty-six acres in area, he shall have one vote.

(b.) If he appears as the occupier of rateable land exceeding forty-six acres but not exceeding seventy-one acres, he shall have two votes.

(c.) If he appears as the occupier of rateable land exceeding seventy-one acres, he shall have three votes. 5

(2.) Those occupiers who, in accordance with the classification of lands, are so classed as to pay no rates shall not, so long as such classification is in force, be entitled to any vote.

Board may levy separate rates over any portion of the district for special works.

5. (1.) Where it appears to the Board that any works which the Board is authorized to execute are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the district, the Board may, for defraying the expenses incurred in executing such works, by special order distinctly defining such portion, make and levy a separate rate on all property within the portion so defined, but the total amount of such separate rate, together with all general and special rates made and levied for 15 any year in any portion of the district, shall not exceed *four* shillings per acre of the area of the rateable property in such portion.

(2.) Before making such separate rate the Board shall cause an estimate to be prepared of the cost of the proposed work and the amount of the rate proposed to be levied, and shall give thirty days' 20 public notice thereof.

(3.) No such special order shall be made unless a petition is presented to the Board, praying that a separate rate may be made and levied, signed by two-thirds of the ratepayers representing at least one-half the value or the area (as the case may be, according to 25 the basis of levying rates adopted by the Board within the district) of the rateable property appearing on the ratepayers roll in the portion to be rated for such separate rate.

Separate rate may be levied uniformly or on graduated scale according to existing classification.

6. Such separate rate may be levied uniformly over the whole of the lands in the portion over which such separate rate is levied or 30 on the classification of the land within such portion from time to time made in manner provided by the Land Drainage Act, 1908, and its amendments.

Application of moneys received from such rate.

7. The Board shall apply so much of the moneys received from any such separate rate as in the opinion of the Board is necessary to 35 defray the expense of making and levying such separate rate and of the clerical work necessary in connection with the expenditure of the remainder of such separate rate as hereinafter directed, including therein a reasonable proportion of the salaries of officers employed generally in the business of the Board but whose services are utilized 40 in the making or levying of such rate or in connection with its expenditure, in such manner as the ordinary revenue of the Board may be expended, and the remainder shall be applied towards the expense of such works as are mentioned in section *five* hereof, or towards recouping itself the expense of any such works which may 45 have been carried out before such separate rate was resolved on.

Saving existing powers of the Board.

8. Nothing contained in this Act shall be deemed in any manner to restrict or limit the powers vested in the Board by virtue of any other Act for the time being remaining in force.