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(Hon. Major Atkinson.)

Public Revenues.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Public Revenues Act, 1867," Title.
and Acts amending the same.

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

- 5 **1.** The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Public Revenues Act, 1875." Short Title.
- 2.** The several Acts and parts of Acts set forth in the First Schedule hereto annexed are hereby repealed. Repealing First Schedule.
- 10 **3.** All moneys the property of the Government of New Zealand in the United Kingdom, shall be paid into an account called the New Zealand Public Account, at such bank or banks (hereinafter called New Zealand Public Account.
Bank.
- 15 **4.** The Governor may cancel any such appointment, and may remove the moneys in the said account or such part of them as he thinks fit from any bank to any other bank so appointed. Power to alter bank.
- 20 **5.** The Governor in Council shall appoint three fit and proper persons, being resident in Great Britain, who, or any two of whom, shall have full power to do in Great Britain on behalf of the Governor, and subject to such instructions as they may from time to time receive from the Governor, every thing which the Governor is empowered to Persons to act for the Governor in Great Britain.

do under the *third* and *fourth* sections of this Act; and upon the death incapacity removal or resignation of either of such persons, the Governor in Council shall appoint another in his stead.

Temporary provision
in case of death of
Agent-General.

6. Upon the death or incapacity of the Agent-General or of the Audit officer, as hereinafter mentioned, the persons appointed as aforesaid, or any two of them, shall forthwith appoint some fit and proper person to the office of Agent-General or of Audit officer, as the case may be, who shall hold the said offices respectively and may exercise the full powers thereof until the pleasure of the Governor or of the Commissioners of Audit, as the case may be, is known in that behalf. 10

Requisition on the
New Zealand Public
Account.
Second Schedule.

7. The Colonial Treasurer shall, so often as occasion requires, prepare and send to the Commissioners of Audit a Requisition in the form in the Second Schedule hereto annexed, setting forth the several sums required to be issued out of the New Zealand Public Account under each vote or other authority of Parliament: And the Commissioners being satisfied that each such sum has been duly appropriated, and is within the amount so appropriated, shall countersign such Requisition, and shall issue an Order on the Bank and send it to the Colonial Treasurer; and such Order being countersigned by the Colonial Treasurer or other Minister in his behalf, shall be authority to the Bank to pay or transfer the amount named in such Order as hereinafter mentioned. 15

Bank Order.

Charges of the
Public Debt.
Third Schedule.

8. For payment of the charges of the Public Debt, the Order on the Bank shall be in the form in the Third Schedule hereto annexed, and the amount named therein shall be paid over to the agent or agents duly appointed to pay such charges, who shall be named in such Order. All such charges shall be finally charged upon the Consolidated Fund upon the day upon which the same become due, and the Order for the issue to meet the same shall bear the same date accordingly. 20

Foreign Imprest
Account.
Fourth Schedule.

9. For payment of all other claims upon the Government of New Zealand in the United Kingdom, the Order on the Bank shall be in the form in the Fourth Schedule hereto annexed, and the Bank shall transfer the amount named therein from the New Zealand Public Account to a separate branch of the same, called the "Foreign Imprest Account," and all sums so transferred shall be deemed to be imprested to the Agent-General. 30

Transfers to Foreign
Imprests to be charged
on votes.

10. All sums so to be transferred to the Foreign Imprest Account shall, so soon as the Requisition for the same is signed by the Commissioners of Audit, be charged as issued by way of Imprest, and, so far as possible, against the votes or other authorities of Parliament under which such issues are required: Provided that sums not exceeding in the whole five thousand pounds in any one month, may be so issued by way of General Imprest. 40

Issues from the
Foreign Imprest
Account.

11. No money shall be drawn from the Foreign Imprest Account except by cheque of the Agent-General, countersigned by an officer of the Audit Office, who shall be selected by the Commissioners of Audit for the purpose. And such Audit officer shall not countersign any such cheque except for payments authorized by a Requisition as aforesaid; and the Commissioners of Audit shall forward to the Audit officer a copy of every Order on the Bank issued by them, and of the Requisition upon which such Order was issued. 45

Accounts.

12. The Agent-General shall, immediately after the end of each month, transmit to the Colonial Treasurer, who shall forthwith submit the same to the Commissioners of Audit, a full and detailed account of all the receipts payments and transfers to and from the New Zealand Public Account and to and from the Foreign Imprest Account respectively, accompanied by all such vouchers and other documents as the Colonial Treasurer or the Commissioners of Audit may require in support of such accounts; and the Agent-General shall receive 60

credit for all expenditure out of the Foreign Imprest Account so far as and so soon as such expenditure is passed by the Commissioners of Audit and finally charged against the votes or other authorities of Parliament sanctioning the same.

5 **13.** The Bank shall, immediately after the close of each month, prepare and send to the Commissioners of Audit, under cover to the Audit officer in England, a bank sheet, showing the totals of the credit and debit sides of the New Zealand Public Account and of the Foreign Imprest Account respectively, for such month, with the balances brought and carried forward in each such account. Bank sheets.

10 **14.** If the moneys standing to the credit of the Consolidated Fund are at any time insufficient to meet the expenditure chargeable thereon, the Colonial Treasurer may, at any time, in lieu of borrowing money by way of deficiency bills or overdraft, as provided by "The Public Revenues Act, 1867," make advances in aid of the Consolidated Fund out of any moneys standing to credit in the Public Works Account: Provided that all such advances shall be repaid within ninety days to the said account, and that the total amount of such advances at any one time outstanding and unpaid shall not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand pounds. Advances repayable in ninety days may be made from the Public Works Account to the Consolidated Fund.

20 **15.** So much of the ninth section of "The Public Revenues Act, 1872," and of the third section of "The Public Revenues Act, 1873," as provides that the balance of the imprests within the colony unaccounted for shall never at any time exceed fifty thousand pounds of the moneys of the Consolidated Fund, and one hundred and twenty thousand pounds of moneys of the Special Funds, is hereby repealed; and in lieu thereof it is hereby enacted that the balance of imprests within the colony unaccounted for shall never at any time exceed seventy-five thousand pounds of the moneys of the Consolidated Fund, nor ninety-five thousand pounds of the moneys of the Special Funds: Provided that this section shall not apply to moneys issued on imprest out of the New Zealand Public Account. Limitation of imprests in the colony.

30 **16.** The revenues arising from confiscated lands, as defined by "The New Zealand Settlements Amendment Act, 1875," shall be and on and from the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, be deemed to have been Land Fund within the meaning of "The Public Revenues Act, 1867," and of every Act relating to the sale disposal or occupation of the waste lands of the Crown. Confiscated land revenue to be Land Fund.

40 **17.** In lieu of the seventieth and seventy-first sections of "The Public Revenues Act, 1867," hereby repealed, it is enacted:—If at any time the Commissioners of Audit ascertain that any public moneys are lying in the hands of or are due from any Receiver or other person, which ought by law to have been paid into the Public Account, or into the New Zealand Public Account, the Commissioners of Audit shall call on such Receiver or other person to pay such moneys into the Public Account forthwith, and in default of such payment shall take all such steps as they may think fit to recover such moneys to the use of Her Majesty, and to cause the same to be paid into the Public Account: Commissioners of Audit to recover debts to the Crown.

50 Provided that nothing herein shall relieve such Receiver or other person from any penalties which he may have incurred by making default in such payment into either of the said Accounts.

Schedules.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

THE forty-ninth, seventieth, and seventy-first sections of "The Public Revenues Act, 1867."

The whole of "The Public Revenues Act, 1869, No. 2."

The fifth and sixth sections of "The Public Revenues Act, 1869."

The second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth sections, and the second, third, and fourth sub-sections of the ninth section of "The Public Revenues Act, 1870."

The sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth sections of "The Public Revenues Act, 1872."

SECOND SCHEDULE.

To the Commissioners of Audit.

Requisition No.

Colonial Treasury, 187

IN accordance with the provisions of "The Public Revenues Act, 1875," I hereby require that the sum of, shall be issued out of the New Zealand Public Account [or, shall be transferred from the New Zealand Public Account to the Foreign Imprest Account], for the payment of the charges hereinafter mentioned.

| Service. | Act Appropriating. | Amount. | | |
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Colonial Treasurer.
Commissioner of Audit.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

Order for Payment, No.

187

To the Manager of the Bank appointed under the authority of an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand intituled "The Public Revenues Act, 1875."

You are hereby authorized and required to issue and pay to the sum of out of the New Zealand Public Account, for payment of charges of the Public Debt of the Government of New Zealand.

Colonial Treasurer.
Commissioner of Audit.

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FOURTH SCHEDULE.

Order for Transfer No.

187

To the Manager of the Bank appointed under the authority of an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand intituled "The Public Revenues Act, 1875."

You are hereby authorized and required to transfer the sum of from the New Zealand Public Account to the Foreign Imprest Account.

Colonial Treasurer.
Commissioner of Audit.

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