

SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, the 27th Day of July, 1898.

WATER-SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. WRIGHT, in Committee, to move the following new clause to follow clause 12:—

12A. In any case where a natural water-channel exists within the district of a County Council or Water-supply Board, the following provisions shall apply, anything in this Act or any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding:—

- (1.) On the written application of a majority of two-thirds of the occupiers, or, in the case of unoccupied land, of the owners, of such of the land through which the water-channel runs as is within the district, the County Council or Water-supply Board may by special order declare the water-channel to be a water-race.
- (2.) So long as such special order continues in operation, every owner or occupier of land through which such water-race runs shall be entitled to use the water, in so much of the water-race as is within the boundaries of his land, for domestic purposes, or for the purpose of watering stock, or for any other purpose not involving the diversion of the water, but shall not be entitled to divert the water except at such times, to such extent, and subject to such conditions as are prescribed by by-laws, which the Council or Board is hereby empowered to make.
- (3.) It shall be the duty of each person who for the time being is the owner or occupier of such land to at all times and at his own cost in all things maintain in good order and keep clear of weeds and other obstructions so much of the water-race as is within the boundaries of his land; and if he fails or neglects so to do to the satisfaction of the Council or Board, the Council or Board, by its servants, workmen, or contractors, may enter on the land and cause the work to be done at his expense in all things, and may recover the same as a debt in any Court of competent jurisdiction:
 Provided that, as between the owner and occupier of the same land, the duty imposed by this subsection shall rest on the occupier, and if the owner perform it he shall be entitled to be indemnified by the occupier against all expense thereby incurred.
- (4.) The water-race shall be under the control of the Council or Board, who may from time to time increase, diminish, or stop the supply of water therein as it thinks fit.
- (5.) Such special order may be rescinded by special order as and when the Council or Board thinks fit, and thereupon, and until the water-race is again constituted under the provisions hereinbefore contained, it shall cease to be a water-race, and the foregoing provisions of this section shall cease to apply.