

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1932.

A BILL

To make better provision for the drainage of land and the mitigation of the effect of floods and the control of flood waters within certain areas; to facilitate the administration of drainage unions and of drainage trusts; to repeal the Water (Costs Declaratory and Flood Prevention) Act, 1924; to amend the Water Act, 1912-1930, and certain other Acts; and for purposes connected therewith.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the "Drainage Act, Short title. 1932," and is divided into Parts and Divisions as follows:—

PART I.—PRELIMINARY—ss. 1-5.

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DIVISION 1.—*Unions—ss.* 55-61.

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(2) This Act shall commence on a date to be appointed by the Governor and notified by proclamation published in the Gazette. Commencement.

2. (1) The Water Act, 1912-1930, is amended— Amendment of Act No. 44, 1912.

(a) (i) by omitting from section twenty-eight the definition of the term "Minister"; Sec. 28. (Interpretation.)

(ii) by omitting from the definition of "State work" in the same section the words "or of drainage";

(iii) by inserting in the same definition after the word "flood-waters" the words "within the Murray Basin";

(b) by omitting subsection one of section thirty; Sec. 30. (Constitution of boards.)

(c) (i) by omitting from section thirty-one the words "or drainage"; Sec. 31. (Proposals for works.)

(ii) by inserting in the same section after the word "flood-waters" the words "within the Murray Basin";

(d)

- (d) by omitting from section thirty-five the words Sec. 35.
 "appropriations from the Public Works Fund" (Construction of works.)
 and by inserting in lieu thereof the words
 "moneys provided by Parliament";
 - (e) (i) by omitting from paragraph (a) of sub-Section 46.
 section one of section forty-six the words (Plural voting.)
 "drainage work or";
 (ii) by inserting in the same paragraph after the
 word "flood-waters" the words "within
 the Murray Basin";
 - (f) (i) by omitting from section fifty-two the Sec. 52.
 words "irrigation and drainage" and by (Duties of trustees.)
 inserting in lieu thereof the words "and
 irrigation";
 (ii) by inserting in the same section after the
 word "flood-waters" the words "within
 the Murray Basin";
 - (g) (i) by omitting from paragraph (c) of sub-Sec. 55.
 section one of section fifty-five the words (Rates.)
 "drainage or";
 (ii) by omitting from the same paragraph the
 words "drains or";
 - (h) by omitting from section sixty-six the words Sec. 66.
 "such Loan Votes as are now or may here- (State works.)
 after be applicable for the purpose" and by
 inserting in lieu thereof the words "moneys
 provided by Parliament";
 - (i) by omitting from subsection one of section Sec. 67.
 sixty-seven the words "such Loan Votes as (Works of water conservation under £5,000.)
 are now or may hereafter be applicable for the
 purpose" and by inserting in lieu thereof the
 words "moneys provided by Parliament";
 - (j) by omitting section seventy-six to section Secs. 76-99 inclusive, secs. 103, 104.
 ninety-nine, both inclusive, and sections one
 hundred and three and one hundred and four.
- (2) The Water (Amendment) Act, 1919, is amended—
- (a) by omitting section two; Amendment of Act No. 25, 1919. Sec. 2. (Revision.)
 - (b) by omitting subsection one of section three. Sec. 3. (Revision.)
- (3) (Revision.)

(3) The Water (Costs Declaratory and Flood Prevention) Act, 1924, is repealed. Repeal of Act No. 41, 1924. (Revision.)

3. (1) (a) All by-laws made in pursuance of Part III of the Water Act, 1912-1930, or of any provisions which that Part replaced, by the trustees of any drainage trust shall continue in force until repealed by regulations made under this Act. By-laws and regulations continued.

(b) All regulations made by the Governor in pursuance of Part III of the Water Act, 1912-1930, or any provisions which that Part replaced and which relate to drainage trusts shall continue in force until repealed by regulations made under this Act.

(c) All by-laws made in pursuance of Part IV of the Water Act, 1912-1930, or of any provisions which that Part replaced shall continue in force until repealed by regulations made under this Act.

(2) On and from the commencement of this Act Saving. the following provisions shall have effect :—

(a) all proclamations and notifications made or deemed to have been made under the Water Act, 1912-1930, relating to any union or trust to which this Act applies, and in particular any such proclamation or notification relating to—

- (i) cost of works ;
- (ii) the number of years within which the cost of works shall be extinguished ;
- (iii) rate of interest on amounts due to Colonial Treasurer ; and
- (iv) instalments of such amounts ;

and in force at the commencement of this Act shall continue in force as if this Act had not been enacted.

(b) all rates, charges, fees, and sums of money which were immediately before the commencement of this Act due or payable to or leviable by or for any union or trust constituted or deemed to be constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, shall be paid to and may be received, levied, and recovered by the board of the union

union or trust constituted under this Act for the district comprising the tract of land or trust district of such first-mentioned union or trust;

- (c) all appraisements or assessments of the benefit received or estimated to be received by any lands within a district made for the purpose of rating such lands shall remain in force, and shall be used in connection with making and levying rates under this Act, until replaced in pursuance of this Act;
- (d) all suits, actions, and proceedings pending immediately before the commencement of this Act at the suit of a union or trust constituted or deemed to be constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, shall be suits, actions, and proceedings pending at the suit of the board of the union or trust constituted by or under this Act for the district comprising the tract of land or trust district of such first-mentioned union or trust;
- (e) all contracts, agreements, and undertakings entered into with and all securities lawfully given to or by a union or trust constituted or deemed to be constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be contracts, agreements, and undertakings entered into with and securities given to or by the union or trust constituted by or under this Act for the district comprising the tract of land or trust district of such first-mentioned union or trust;
- (f) the board of a union or trust constituted by or under this Act may pursue the same remedies for the recovery of any such rates, moneys, and claims, and for the prosecution of such suits, actions, and proceedings as the union or trust constituted or deemed to have been constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, might have done but for this Act;

(g)

- (g) the board of a union or trust constituted by or under this Act may enforce and realise any security or charge existing immediately before the commencement of this Act in favour of the union or trust constituted or deemed to be constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, in respect of any such rates, moneys, and claims as if such security or charge were existing in favour of the union or trust constituted under this Act;
 - (h) all debts due and moneys payable by, and all claims liquidated and unliquidated recoverable against a union or trust constituted or deemed to have been constituted under the Water Act, 1912-1930, shall be debts due and moneys payable by and claims recoverable against the union or trust constituted by or under this Act for the district comprising the tract of land or trust district of such first-mentioned union or trust.
 - (i) where in any Act, ordinance, regulation, or by-law reference is made to any of the provisions of the Water Act, 1912-1930, repealed by this Act such reference shall be deemed to be to the corresponding provisions (if any) of this Act.
- 4.** In this Act and any regulations made thereunder, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires,—

- “Board” means board of directors of a union or trust.
- “Crown Lands” has the meaning given to that expression in the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, or any Act amending the same.
- “Director” means director of a union or trust.
- “District” means the area of a union or trust for the time being.
- “Drain” includes any ditch, channel, artificial outlet or watercourse for the purpose of draining land.

“Owner”

Interpretation.

“Owner” in relation to land includes every person who jointly or severally whether at law or in equity in respect of lands within a district—

- (a) is entitled to the land for an estate of freehold in possession ; or
- (b) is a person to whom the Crown has lawfully contracted to grant the fee simple under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, or any other Act relating to the alienation of lands of the Crown ;
- (c) is entitled to receive, or is in receipt of, or if the land were let to a tenant would be entitled to receive the rents and profits thereof, whether as beneficial owner, trustee, mortgagee in possession, or otherwise, and includes every person who by virtue of this Act is deemed to be the owner.

Provided that the Crown shall be deemed to be the owner of—

- (a) all lands of the Crown ; and
- (b) all lands vested in a statutory body representing the Crown.

“Owned” and similar expressions have a meaning corresponding with that of owner.

“Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act or by any regulations under this Act.

“Secretary” means secretary of a union or trust.

“Statutory body representing the Crown” means any body defined by or proclaimed under the Local Government Act, 1919, as amended by subsequent Acts, as a statutory body representing the Crown.

“Works” includes drains, embankments, flood-gates, tide-gates, pipes, fencing, machinery, appliances or structures used or proposed to be used by a board, whether within or outside the boundaries of a district.

5. Unless otherwise expressly provided, nothing in Certain Acts not affected. this Act shall affect any of the provisions of—

- the Local Government Act, 1919 ;
- the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Act, 1924-1931 ;
- the Hunter District Water and Sewerage Act, 1892-1928 ;
- the Water Act, 1912-1930 ;
- the Reclamation Act, 1930 ; or
- any Acts amending any of the said Acts.

PART II.

EXISTING UNIONS AND TRUSTS.

6. (1) Every tract of land owned by the persons con- Existing Unions. stituted or deemed to be constituted a drainage union under Part IV of the Water Act, 1912-1930, shall, together with any Crown land within such tract, be deemed to be a district for the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every such union shall be deemed to have been constituted under this Act.

(3) The directors of any such union holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue in office until the day appointed by this Act for the first election of directors.

7. (1) Every trust district over which, immediately Existing Trusts. before the commencement of this Act, a trust constituted or deemed to have been constituted under Part III of the Water Act, 1912-1930, for the purpose of any work of drainage, had jurisdiction under that Act, shall be deemed a district for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The trust so constituted for any such trust district shall, for the purposes of this Act, be the trust for such district.

(3)

(3) The trustees of any such trust holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be directors of the trust until the day appointed by this Act for the first election of directors.

(4) A manager of the affairs of any such trust appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Water Act, 1912-1930, and holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act.

(5) Any amount which, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was due by a trust constituted under Part III of the Water Act, 1912-1930, for the purpose of any work of drainage, to the Colonial Treasurer in respect of works transferred to such trust in pursuance of the provisions of such Part, whether such amount is for capital cost, interest, or otherwise, shall be amounts due by the board of such trust incorporated by this Act.

(6) When all such amounts have been repaid the trust shall cease to be a trust, and shall be deemed to be a union constituted under this Act.

PART III.

DRAINAGE UNIONS—CONSTITUTION.

8. Wherever any tract of land is so circumstanced that from any permanent or occasional cause, considerable quantities of water accumulate thereon or flow thereover and by reason of the absence of sufficient natural or artificial drainage or of flood prevention works so accumulate thereon or flow thereover to the injury of such land, application may be made to the Minister for the formation of a drainage union for compulsory drainage and mitigation of the effect of floods or tides.

Application for constitution of union of. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 77.

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9. (1) The application shall be signed by at least ^{Particulars of} one-half the number of owners of land included in such ^{application.} tract, and shall set out—

- (a) the locality and boundaries of the tract proposed to be drained, or protected against floods or tides;
- (b) the nature and cause of the accumulation of water or flooding;
- (c) the name and description of every owner of lands within the tract, and the respective portions and area held by each;
- (d) the name and the number of directors proposed for the union;
- (e) a description of the works proposed to be constructed or used;

(2) The application shall be in the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The Minister may require additional information in respect of any application.

10. (1) The Minister shall cause notice of the ^{Publication} application to be published in the Gazette and in a ^{of notices.} newspaper circulating in the locality affected by the application.

(2) The notice in the Gazette shall—

- (a) indicate the boundaries of the tract of land proposed to be drained, or protected against floods or tides;
- (b) give a short description of the works proposed to be constructed or used;
- (c) appoint a time (not being earlier than eight weeks after the date of publication of the notice in the Gazette) and place at which objections may be lodged.

11. The Minister shall, where objection to the ^{Inquiry.} application is lodged within the appointed time by or on behalf of not less than one-fourth in number of the owners of land included in the tract, and may for any reason he considers sufficient, cause an inquiry to be held by some person appointed by him to examine the statements contained in the application and in any objection.

12.

12. (1) Where no such inquiry is held, or where the person holding such an inquiry reports in favour of the constitution of a union in conformity with the application with or without modification the Governor may constitute a drainage union in conformity with the application, or with such modifications, if any, as the Minister may recommend.

Constitution
of union.
cf. No. 44,
1912, s. 34.

(2) The constitution and name of the union and a plan and description of the boundaries of its district shall be notified by the Minister in the Gazette.

PART IV.

ADMINISTRATION.

DIVISION 1.—*Unions and trusts.*

13. (1) The powers, authorities, duties, and functions of each union and trust shall be exercised and performed by a board which shall consist of not less than three and not more than seven directors.

Board of
directors.

(2) Where a union or trust was constituted or deemed to be constituted under the Water Act, 1912–1930, the number of directors who shall, after the first general election of directors, constitute the board of such union or trust shall be fixed by the Minister and notified in the Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the district of such union or trust is situated, as soon as practicable after the commencement of this Act.

(3) Where a union is constituted after the commencement of this Act, the number of directors shall be fixed by the Governor, and shall be so notified in the notification of the constitution of such union.

(4) The Governor may from time to time upon the application of any board increase or reduce the number of directors of such board, but not so as to reduce such number below three nor increase it above seven.

Any

Any such increase or reduction shall be notified in the Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the district of the union or trust affected is situated, shall be so notified within a reasonable time before the date appointed for the general election of directors next after the date of publication of such notification in the Gazette, and shall take effect from the date of such election.

14. (1) Each board shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name and shall for the purposes and subject to the provisions of this Act be capable of purchasing, holding, granting, demising, disposing of and alienating real and personal property, and of doing and suffering all such other acts and things as bodies corporate may by law do and suffer :

Incorporation
of board.

Provided that in the case of real property the powers of the board shall not be exercised unless the consent of the Minister is first obtained.

(2) The corporate name of a board shall be "the Board of Directors of the Union (or Trust)."

Drainage

(3) No proceedings of the board shall be invalid or illegal in consequence only of the fact that there was at the time a vacancy in the board.

15. (1) The Minister shall appoint one director of each trust.

Appointment
and election
of directors.

A trustee appointed by the Minister under the Water Act, 1912-1930, and holding office as such immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act as a director of the trust.

(2) Where any Crown lands are included in the district of any union, the Minister may appoint one director of such union.

(3) Any directors appointed under subsection one or subsection two of this section are in this Act referred to as "appointed directors."

(4) The remaining directors of any trust or of any union of which the Minister has appointed a director

director

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director, and all the directors of any other union shall be elected in the manner prescribed by the persons whose names are on the roll of voters of such trust or union.

(5) Any directors so elected are in this Act referred to as "elected directors."

16. (1) Unless disqualified by this Act, every person whose name is on the roll of voters compiled under this Act shall be qualified for office as an elected director. Qualification for office. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 30.

(2) A person shall be disqualified for office as an elected director if—

- (a) he is not qualified or is disqualified to be a voter; or
- (b) he has not before nomination paid all moneys in excess of the sum of five shillings that were at any time before the end of the month preceding that in which nomination day falls, due by him to the board; or
- (c) he has been convicted of a felony and has not received a free pardon or served his sentence; or
- (d) he converts to his own use any property of the board.

17. (1) An appointed director shall hold office until removed by the Minister or, if he is a director of a trust, until all amounts due by such trust to the Colonial Treasurer have been paid. Tenure of office of directors.

(2) An elected director shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election.

(3) An extraordinary vacancy in the office of an elected director shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be filled by the election of a director in the manner prescribed.

18. The office of an elected director shall—

- (a) commence on the day of his election thereto;
- (b) become vacant on the election of his successor or on the occurrence of an extraordinary vacancy. Office of director. cf. Ibid. s. 33.

19.

19. (1) Before acting in office as a director, a person elected or appointed thereto shall before a justice of the peace (to whom it shall not be necessary to issue a writ of dedimus potestatem) take and subscribe and transmit to the Minister an oath of allegiance to His Majesty and make and subscribe and transmit to the Minister the following declaration of office:—

Oath and declaration of office.
cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 33 (2).

“I, _____ having been elected (or appointed) a director of the Drainage Union (or Trust) do hereby declare that I will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of the office according to the best of my judgment and ability.”

(2) Any neglect to transmit such oath and declaration to the Minister within one month after his election or appointment shall be deemed a refusal to accept office, and to cause an extraordinary vacancy.

20. An extraordinary vacancy in the office of an elected director shall occur if such director—

Extraordinary vacancy.
cf. *Ibid.* s. 35.

- (a) dies; or
- (b) resigns his office by notice in writing addressed to the secretary; or
- (c) is disqualified for the office; or
- (d) ceases for any reason to hold office before the day appointed for an ordinary election.

21. (1) If any elected director does not attend at least one half the meetings of the board held during any year he shall at the end of such year cease to hold office.

Attendance at meetings.
cf. *Ibid.* s. 37.

(2) He shall be eligible for re-election if not otherwise disqualified.

(3) This section shall not apply to any absence caused by illness or other sufficient cause if—

- (a) such illness or other sufficient cause is duly set out in apologies received at the meetings from which he was absent, and if such apologies are accepted by resolution of the board; or
- (b) the period of absence so caused is covered by leave of absence granted by the board before or after the absence, and before the end of the year, and the resolution granting such leave sets out the cause thereof.

(4)

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(4) Where any such director was not in office at the commencement of the year any meetings held before his entry into office shall not in his case be counted in determining the number of meetings held during the year.

22. (1) Business shall not be transacted at any meeting of the board unless a quorum is present.

(2) The regulations may prescribe either generally or in respect of any particular board, or class of board, the number of directors who shall constitute a quorum.

23. (1) For the purposes of the first general-election of directors after the commencement of this Act, the Minister shall appoint a returning officer for each district, and for the purposes of any succeeding election a returning officer shall be appointed by the board of the district.

Returning Officer.

(2) A director or a candidate for the office of director shall not be eligible for such appointment.

(3) The duties of a returning officer shall be as prescribed.

24. (1) Elections of directors shall, except as provided in this section, take place on the days appointed therefor respectively.

Elections of directors. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 38.

(2) If it appears to the Minister to be impracticable or inconvenient to hold an election on the day appointed, he may appoint a subsequent day, not being more than one month thereafter.

(3) Where the time for the holding of a triennial ordinary election of directors is postponed in any district—

(a) the election of chairman of the board shall be postponed and shall be held at the first meeting of the board after the day of election of directors, and in such case the chairman in office immediately before the election of directors may, if he is an appointed director, or if, being an elected director, he is re-elected as a director, act as chairman until his successor is elected or appointed;

(b)

(b) the retiring directors may remain in office until the day of the election, and if any of them resigns in the meantime his successor may hold office for the remainder of his term.

(4) In the case of an extraordinary vacancy occurring within the last six months of any board's term of office, the Minister may order that an election shall not be held; but notwithstanding any such order the Minister may subsequently authorise the holding of an election to fill the vacancy, and appoint a day therefor.

25. The appointed day for an election of directors shall be—

Appointed days for elections. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 39.

- (a) for the first election in accordance with this Act—the twenty-fifth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two;
- (b) for ordinary elections after the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two—the last Friday in November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five, and the same day in every third year thereafter;
- (c) for the first election after a union has been constituted, or for an election where the Minister has directed that the powers, duties, and obligations vested in the manager of a trust shall be re-vested and reimposed upon a board—a Friday to be notified by the Minister: Provided that the next succeeding election shall be held on the day appointed for ordinary elections under paragraph (b) of this section;
- (d) for elections to fill extraordinary vacancies—a Friday fixed and advertised by the returning officer being within one month after the occurrence of such vacancy.

26. (1) No election under this Act shall be invalid by reason only of any of the following irregularities, that is to say—

Validity of elections. cf. *Ibid.* s. 41.

- (a) any formal defect or error in or relating to the election, if the election was held substantially in accordance with this Act; or

(b)

(b) any defect or want of title of any person who acted as returning officer.

(2) If the Governor proclaims that any such irregularity does not invalidate the election, the proclamation shall be conclusive as to the matter stated therein.

27. (1) If an election under this Act does not take place on a day appointed therefor or is afterwards declared void for any reason, the board shall not thereby be deemed to be dissolved or to be disabled from taking any necessary steps for the election of directors in the future.

Lapsed or void elections. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 42.

(2) In any such case the election shall be held as in the case of an extraordinary vacancy, and every act necessary to be done for completing the election shall be as valid as if the election were held upon the day or within the time originally appointed for that purpose.

28. At an election of directors or at general meetings of a union or trust, a person whose name is on the roll of voters shall be entitled to exercise votes according to the area of land which he holds within the district, that is to say—

Plural voting. cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 46 (1) (a).

- (a) not exceeding fifty acres, one vote ;
- (b) exceeding fifty acres but not exceeding three hundred acres, two votes ;
- (c) exceeding three hundred acres, three votes.

When the Crown is on the roll of voters the vote may be exercised by some officer of the Public Service authorised in writing by the Minister.

29. (1) Within a reasonable time before an election of a director or a general meeting of owners the returning officer shall prepare a roll of voters in the manner prescribed.

Roll of voters.

(2) The roll shall include the names and descriptions of all owners within the district, including the Crown and the lessees of the Crown, the area of land held by each, and the number of votes to which each is entitled.

(3)

(3) Any stipendiary or police magistrate shall constitute a revision court.

Revision court.

(4) A revision court shall hear claims and objections and revise the roll of voters as prescribed.

cf. Act No. 41, 1919, secs. 68, 69.

(5) A revision court shall, for the purposes of this Act, have the powers of a court of petty sessions, and the appointment and procedure of such revision court shall be as prescribed.

30. (1) Each board shall elect one of its members to be the chairman at the first meeting after a general election of directors.

Office of chairman.

(2) The chairman shall hold office for one year, and shall be eligible for re-election.

31. (1) Every board shall appoint and employ a secretary and an auditor, and on the occurrence of a vacancy shall, within three months thereafter, appoint and employ a secretary or auditor to fill such vacancy.

Secretary and Auditor.

(2) The duties of a secretary or auditor shall be as prescribed.

(3) The secretary may be required to give security for due performance of his duties.

32. (1) A board shall have the following powers and duties:—

Powers and duties of boards.

- (a) it shall maintain in a state of efficiency the works under its charge, and renew such works where necessary;
- (b) it may construct, alter, or extend any works in accordance with any authority and consent given under this Act;
- (c) it shall make, levy and collect rates;
- (d) it shall pay to the Colonial Treasurer any amounts due;
- (e) it may appoint such officers and servants as may be required;
- (f) it shall institute where necessary legal proceedings for the recovery of outstanding rates or other amounts;
- (g) it shall keep the prescribed books and accounts;

cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 53.

(h)

(h) generally it shall manage the affairs of the union or trust and do such acts as may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The construction of works outside a district shall not be commenced until the consent of the Minister has been obtained. Works outside district.

(3) The provisions of section ten of the Water Act, 1912-1930, shall not apply in respect of the works of any union or trust situated wholly within the district of such union or trust. Board of union or trust not required to take out license under Part II, Water Act, 1912-1930.

33. (1) A board or any person authorised by it may enter any land within or outside its district for the purpose of making inspections or surveys, constructing, maintaining and effecting extensions and alterations to the works, and for any other purpose in the exercise of its powers and duties, notwithstanding that no easement or right to enter or use such land may have been granted or acquired. Entry on lands. cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 54.

(2) The board shall make full compensation for any damage occasioned. Failing agreement as to the amount of compensation to be paid, the board or any person interested in the subject-matter of any claim for compensation may refer the claim to the Valuer-General, whose decision shall be final.

(3) For the purposes of this section land includes street or road.

34. The board shall carry out such extensions of works as are authorised by a majority of votes cast at a general meeting of voters of any trust or union : Extension of works.

Provided that in the case of a trust, the Minister's consent shall be obtained before the extensions are commenced.

35. (1) The boundaries of a district may from time to time, on application by the board, be amended by the Governor. Amendment of boundaries.

(2) Any such application shall contain particulars of the lands proposed to be added to or excised from the district, and which have or are capable of being increased in value or which have decreased in value respectively by reason of the operations of the board.

(3)

(3) The Minister shall cause notices of any such application to be published in the Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the locality in which such district is situated.

(4) The notice in the Gazette shall—

- (a) give particulars of the lands proposed to be added to or excised from the district;
- (b) appoint a time (not being earlier than eight weeks after the date of publication of the notice in the Gazette), and place, at which objections may be lodged.

(5) After expiration of the appointed time and upon consideration of any objection lodged the Minister may recommend and the Governor may approve an application with such modification, if any, as the Minister, upon investigation, may consider desirable.

(6) The approval of the Governor, and particulars of the alterations made in the boundaries of the district, shall be notified by the Minister in the Gazette.

As from the date of publication of such notification the boundaries of the district shall be deemed to be altered accordingly.

(7) This section shall apply to trusts and to unions constituted either before or after the commencement of this Act, but shall not authorise an amendment of the boundaries of the district of a trust so as to exclude from such district any land which has increased in value or is capable of increasing in value within the meaning of section thirty-nine.

DIVISION 2 — Unions.

36. The board of a union may, with the Governor's approval, borrow money for the construction or extension of works for the purposes of this Act.

Borrowing
money by
unions.
cf. Act No. 44,
1912, s. 97.

37. No works affecting any navigable waters shall be commenced without the sanction of the Governor.

Navigable
waters.
cf. *Ibid.* s. 94.

38.

DIVISION 3.—Trusts.

38. (1) In the event of any delay in the election of directors of a trust, or in the event of any default by a director or the board of a trust in the discharge of his or its duties under this Act or any regulation made hereunder, or of the voters failing to elect the required number of directors, the Minister may by notification published in the Gazette remove a director or the board, if any, from office and either—

Minister's power to remove directors of a trust. cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 59.

- (a) direct the election of another director or another board; or
- (b) assume all powers, duties and obligations by this Act conferred or imposed on the board, and vest the same in a person whom he shall appoint as manager of the affairs of the trust.

Provided that the Minister may at any time after the appointment of a manager appoint a director and direct the election of the remaining directors, and upon such appointment and election all such powers, duties, and obligations shall be re-vested in and re-imposed upon the board.

(2) Where an elected director has been removed from office under this section he shall not be eligible for re-election unless the Minister shall otherwise direct.

PART V.

RATING.

DIVISION 1.—Assessments.

39. (1) The Valuer-General shall as soon as practicable in respect of every union, whether constituted before or after the commencement of this Act, and of every trust, make an assessment of the increased value accruing to each portion of land within the district by reason of works used or to be used by the board.

Assessments of increased value.

(2)

(2) Upon completion of such assessment the Valuer-General shall furnish to the board a list (in this Part referred to as a "valuation list") giving particulars within his knowledge of the ownership, occupation, title and description of all lands within the district, including Crown lands, together with an assessment of the increased value referred to in subsection one of this section. Such valuation list shall be used for the purpose of rating for the next period in respect of which a rate is levied, and as from the commencement of such period replace the assessments or appraisements then current.

Valuation lists.
cf. Act No. 2, 1916, s. 48.
cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 86.

(3) Lands within the district may be deemed to have increased in value or be capable of increasing in value, notwithstanding that prior to the construction of works taken over by a trust, or the construction of works by a union, such lands were not subject to floods or not covered with water, and notwithstanding that works have not been constructed or maintained by an owner so as to take advantage of the works of the trust or union.

Increase in value.

(4) The Valuer-General may from time to time, and shall at least once in every three years after the date upon which the first valuation list has been furnished for any district, make a new assessment in respect of such district and furnish a new valuation list to the board.

New valuation lists.

(5) Towards defraying the cost of any such assessment each board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue Fund such sums, at such periods, as the Colonial Treasurer may decide.

Cost of assessment.

40. For the purposes of this Act, the provisions of Part III of the Valuation of Land Act, 1916, shall apply to notices of and objections to assessments by the Valuer-General.

Notices and objections.

DIVISION 2.—Making and levying rates.

41. The board shall for each current year commencing on the first day of January cause an estimate to be made of the amount required for such current year for the following purposes:—

Annual estimates.
cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 88.

- (a) Construction, maintenance, extension and alteration of works.
- (b)

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- (b) Payment to the Colonial Treasurer of any amounts due or becoming due.
- (c) Repayment of loans, and payment of interest thereon.
- (d) Defraying costs of administration.
- (e) Meeting all other expenditure whatsoever in carrying out their powers, authorities, duties and functions.

42. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the board shall in respect of each year commencing on the first day of January next preceding the making thereof, make and levy rates upon all ratable land in the district in respect of the increased values as shown in the current valuation list sufficient to meet the estimated amount required for such year :

Rates, making and levying.

Provided that rates so made and levied shall not, except with the Minister's consent previously obtained, exceed ten pounds per centum on the aggregate of the increased values of all land within the district, or the maximum amount levied in any year prior to the commencement of this Act, whichever is the greater.

(2) Every such rate shall—

- (a) be made by resolution of the board ;
- (b) be levied by the service of a rate notice.

(3) Every rate shall be levied in respect of a separate parcel of land, but any rate in respect thereof may be included in the same rate notice with any rate in respect of the same or different land.

Land rated—
separate parcels.
Act No. 41,
1919, s. 139
(3).

(4) In any case where the name of any owner liable to pay the rate is not known to the board, it shall be sufficient to rate such owner by the designation of "owner" without stating his name.

cf. *Ibid.*
s. 139 (6).

(5) Where land which was not ratable has become ratable the rate thereon shall be proportionate to the portion of the year during which the land is ratable ; and in any such case the first valuation made of the land after it becomes ratable shall be deemed to have come into force concurrently with the land becoming ratable.

cf. *Ibid.*
s. 139 (7).

(6)

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(6) Where land which was ratable has not been valued because of omission from the valuation list, the first valuation thereof after discovery of the omission shall come into force as from the first day of January of the then current year; and the rate may be levied accordingly.

cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 139 (8).

(7) Rates may be levied in respect of all ratable land within the district, including ratable Crown lands.

Crown lands.

(8) All land within the district of any union or trust in respect of which any increased value accruing thereto by reason of works used or to be used by such trust or union has been appraised or assessed shall be ratable, except land owned by the Crown not being—

Definition of ratable land

- (a) land held under a lease from the Crown by any person for private purposes;
- (b) land within the district of a trust which was, at the date of the constitution of such trust, liable for rates under the Water Act, 1912-1930, or any Act repealed by that Act.

43. If for any reason any rate is not made within or by the time prescribed by or under this Act, or if any irregularity in making or levying any rate affects or may be considered to affect the validity of any rate, the Governor may extend the time for the making of the rate, and may authorise the doing by the board of such acts as may be necessary to cure the irregularity and to validate the rate.

Irregularities. cf. *Ibid.* s. 140.

44. (1) Every rate shall be entered in a rate-book which shall be in the prescribed form.

Rate-book. cf. *Ibid.* s. 142.

(2) An alteration or amendment in the rate-book may be made in respect of any rate by altering such of the particulars entered therein as may be prescribed.

(3) An alteration or amendment in the rate-book shall have effect upon adoption by the board as though made when the rate was made.

(4) An alteration or amendment in the rate-book made in conformity with the resolution of the board shall be made in the prescribed manner.

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DIVISION 3.—*Liability for rates.*

45. Every rate shall be due and payable to and re-
coverable by the board on the expiration of one month
after service of the rate notice.

Due date.
cf. Act No.
41, 1919,
s. 143.

46. Every rate shall, except where this Act other-
wise expressly provides, be paid to the board by the
owner of the lands in respect of which the rate is levied.

Liability of
owner.
cf. *Ibid.*
s. 144.

- 47.** (1) Where the ratable person—
- (a) is a resident outside New South Wales; or
 - (b) is unknown to the board; or
 - (c) has not after reasonable efforts by or on behalf
of the board to effect service been served in any
legal proceedings for the recovery of the rate; or
 - (d) is a bankrupt; or
 - (e) dies; or
 - (f) has had a verdict or judgment given against
him for the amount of the rate,

Liability of
occupier.
cf. *Ibid.*
s. 150.

the board may serve upon any person in occupation of
the land a notice of the amount of the rate, or of such
verdict or judgment, and a demand that any rent then
due or thereafter to become due by such person in
respect of the land be paid by him as it falls due to the
board in liquidation of the amount of the rate, or verdict,
or judgment.

(2) In default of payment of rent as aforesaid
the board may recover from such person in occupation
the amount of the demand or any outstanding portion
thereof, as a debt.

(3) Any payment to the board under this sec-
tion shall be a valid discharge to the payer for such rent
as against all other persons whomsoever.

(4) Nothing in this section shall apply to a
person who is in occupation for or on behalf, or as the
servant of the Crown, or of any shire or municipal
council.

48. (1) Where the land is owned by the Crown and
is held by any person under lease therefrom the rate
shall be paid to the board by the holder of the lease.

Land owned
by the
Crown.
cf. *Ibid.*
s. 145.

(2)

(2) Where the land is held under a lease from the Crown by two or more persons successively in the same year, whether with or without any interval between their holding, the board may, if it thinks fit—

- (a) make such adjustment (if any) of the rate, whether paid or unpaid, as it thinks proper between such persons;
- (b) recover from each of such persons his proportion of the rate as fixed by the adjustment;
- (c) make any refund in accordance with the adjustment;
- (d) write off any amount in respect of the interval between the holding of such persons.

49. Where land is owned or held jointly by two or more persons, such persons shall be jointly and severally liable to the board for the rate, but as between themselves each shall only be liable for such part of the rate as is proportionate to his interest in the land. Joint owners. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 147.

(2) If any of such persons pays to the board more than his proportionate part, he may recover the excess by way of contribution from the others.

50. Where after the passing of this Act a person in occupation under any lease or as tenant to the owner, has paid rates in respect of lands within a district and there is no sufficient provision in the lease or in some other written instrument with reference to the payment of rates, the person in occupation may recover from the owner the whole or such proportion of the rates as the court before which the action is tried shall think just. Tenant may recover proportion of rates.

This section shall not apply in respect of rates payable upon any land within the district of a trust, during the currency of any lease or tenancy thereof entered into before and existing at the commencement of this Act.

DIVISION 4.—*Miscellaneous.*

51. (1) Every rate under this Act may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction, and shall, together with any costs awarded to the board, be and remain a charge on the land in respect of which such rate Charge of rates on land. cf. *Ibid.* s. 152.

rate is made and levied, in priority to all sales, conveyances, transfers, mortgages, charges, liens and encumbrances whatsoever :

Provided that—

(a) No such charge for any rate or costs shall be of any effect as against a bona fide purchaser for value who at the time of purchase made due inquiry but had no notice of the liability ; and

(b) a purchaser shall be deemed to have made due inquiry who has in good faith obtained a certificate of the secretary as to the amount (if any) due in respect of rates and costs.

(2) Where the land is owned by the Crown the charge shall not affect or extend to—

(a) the estate or interest of the Crown in the land ; or

(b) the estate or interest of any person holding under a lease from the Crown where the lease is granted after the rate is levied, whether the land has been previously held under a lease from the Crown or not.

(3) The charge shall rank pari passu with any charge on the land under any other Act.

52. (1) If an owner of land within a district transfers his estate or interest in such land, or in any part thereof, such owner and the transferee shall (except as provided in this section) within one month of such transfer give notice thereof to the board. Notice of transfer. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 163.

(2) It shall not be necessary to give notice under this section of any mortgage nor of the discharge of any mortgage.

53. (1) Overdue rates, extra charge. Overdue rates, extra charge.

(2) If any rate is unpaid at the expiration of three months from the due date, the amount due shall be increased by a sum calculated at the rate of seven per centum per annum, and the increase shall be deemed to be part of such rate. cf. Ibid. s. 158.

(3)

(3) The calculation under the last preceding subsection shall be made in respect only of as many complete months as have expired between the due date and the date of payment, excluding any remaining portion of a month.

(4) If in any case the percentage is less than threepence, the increase shall be threepence.

(5) This section shall apply as from the commencement of this Act to rates levied under the Acts hereby repealed.

(6) The charge under this section shall continue to apply to all unpaid rates notwithstanding that judgment may have been obtained in any court.

54. (1) Where any rate levied in respect of land within a district after the commencement of this Act is overdue for more than seven years, the board may apply to the Public Trustee to sell the land.

Sale of land for rates, cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 602, et seq.

(2) The provisions of sections six hundred and two to six hundred and thirteen inclusive of the Local Government Act, 1919, as amended by subsequent Acts, shall apply to sales under this section, and for that purpose "secretary" and "board" shall be read instead of "town or shire clerk" and "council" respectively, and where, in those sections, any form, matter, or thing is required or authorised to be prescribed by ordinance, such form, matter, or thing, may be prescribed by regulation made under this Act.

PART VI.

GENERAL.

DIVISION 1.—Unions.

55. (1) The board of each union shall each year before commencing any works furnish to the Minister for public reference a plan showing accurately the position, direction, width, depth and such other particulars of such works as the Minister may require.

Plans of drainage, cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 93.

(2)

(2) The board shall cause a copy of such plan to be lodged for like reference with the nearest clerk of petty sessions.

56. A person advancing money to the board of a union shall not be bound to inquire into the application of the money advanced or be in any way responsible for the non-application or mis-application thereof. Protection of investors. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 197.

57. (1) If for six months default is made by the board of a union in making any payment of borrowed money, whether of principal or interest, the person who has advanced such money may apply to the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdiction for the appointment of a receiver. Appointment of receiver. cf. Ibid. s. 193.

(2) The court may make such orders and give such directions as it may deem proper for and with respect to—

- (a) the appointment of a receiver;
- (b) the removal of a receiver;
- (c) the appointment of a receiver in place of a receiver previously appointed.

(3) A receiver shall be deemed to be an officer of the court, and shall act under its direction.

58. (1) The receiver shall have power to make and levy all rates and collect all moneys payable to the board of the union, and for these purposes the receiver shall be deemed the board of the union, and may (subject to the direction of the court) exercise all the powers thereof. Powers and duties of receiver. cf. Ibid. s. 194.

(2) The receiver shall discharge such duties of the board of the union and of any officer or servant thereof as may be directed by the court.

59. The receiver shall be entitled to such commission as remuneration for his services as the court may order, and the commission shall be payable out of the rates or any other moneys of the board. Commission. cf. Ibid. s. 195.

60. The receiver shall, subject to any order of the court, pay and apply all moneys received by him in the following order, that is to say— Application of moneys received. cf. Ibid. s. 196.

- (a) firstly in payment of the costs, charges and expenses of collection and of his commission;
- (b)

- (b) secondly in payment of the amount due and payable to the person who has advanced money to the board ;
- (c) thirdly in payment of all the residue of the moneys to the board.

61. (1) When all amounts due by any board have been repaid the owners being not less than one-third in number of those within the district may present a petition to the Governor under their hands for the dissolution of the union. Dissolution. cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 99.

(2) The Governor may notify such petition, and if no sufficient cause to the contrary is shown by other owners within the district, shall proclaim that the union is dissolved.

DIVISION 2.—Unions and trusts.

62. (1) Any rate, charge, fee, or money due to the board under the provisions of this Act or of any regulation under this Act may be recovered as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction. Debts. cf. Act No. 41, 1919, s. 590.

(2) Proceedings under this Act for the recovery of any rate, charge, fee, or money so due to a board shall be deemed to be for the recovery of a debt or liquidated demand within the meaning of—

- (a) Section twenty-four of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1899.
- (b) Section sixty-four of the District Courts Act, 1912.
- (c) Section twenty-five of the Small Debts Recovery Act, 1912.

63. (1) A board shall take prompt action to collect or recover any rate or other due debt. Collection of debts.

(2) When all practical means shall have failed to effect the collection or recovery of any rate or debt the board may take such steps as may be prescribed towards having the debt written off the books.

64. (1) The accounts of a board shall be audited once every half-year. Accounts.

(2) A board shall each year publish in a newspaper circulating in the locality a statement of the

the income and expenditure for the next preceding year, certified under the hands of the chairman of the board or manager and the auditor, or forward a copy of such statement to each owner of land within the district.

The board shall forward a copy of the statement to the Minister.

65. The accounts of boards shall be subject to Audit. inspection, examination and audit under the Trustees Audit Act, 1912.

66. Any person who—

Penalties.

- (a) obstructs any person acting in the exercise of cf. Act No. 44, 1912, s. 71. his powers and duties under this Act or any regulation made thereunder; or
- (b) interferes with or wilfully or negligently injures or destroys the works; or
- (c) wilfully destroys, removes, obliterates or defaces any mark, peg, stake, or level fixed for the purposes of this Act; or
- (d) commits any breach of the provisions of this Act or of any regulation made thereunder,

shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *twenty* pounds, and in the case of a continuing offence to a penalty not exceeding *five* pounds per day whilst the offence continues, and shall also be liable to be sued by the board or by any person affected for compensation on account of loss or damage caused by his offence.

67. (1) Any owner of land may, for the purpose of draining land or flood prevention, make and cut drains through any adjacent or neighbouring land into any waters. Power to make drains through other lands. cf. Ibid. s. 104.

(2) Such owner constructing such drain shall be liable at law to make full compensation for any damage thereby occasioned to the proprietor of such adjacent or neighbouring land, and be subject to all other the provisions of this Act in respect of drains.

(3) The amount of such compensation shall be determined by the local land board constituted under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913.

68.

68. (1) The Governor may make regulations not ^{Regulations.} inconsistent with this Act prescribing all matters which by this Act are required, or authorised to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act, and in particular and without limiting the generality of the foregoing power may make regulations for and with respect to—

- (a) the times for preparation of rolls of voters ;
- (b) the appointment and notification of days for enrolment ;
- (c) the notification and inspection of rolls ;
- (d) the nomination of candidates for any election held under this Act ;
- (e) the method of voting, and whether by post or by personal attendance at a polling-place ;
- (f) the preparation, form, and printing of ballot-papers ;
- (g) the conduct of elections by postal voting or otherwise ;
- (h) the qualifications to be held by auditors.

(2) Such regulations shall—

- (a) be published in the Gazette ;
- (b) take effect from the date of publication or from a later date to be specified therein ; and
- (c) be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen sitting days of publication if Parliament is in session, and if not, then within fourteen sitting days after the commencement of the next session.

(3) If either House of Parliament passes a resolution of which notice has been given at any time within fifteen sitting days after such regulation has been laid before such House disallowing the regulation or part thereof, such regulation or part shall thereupon cease to have effect.
