

No. XXV.

An Act to provide Funds by means of a Tonnage Duty for making Improvement to the Navigation of the River Hunter and to the Ports of Newcastle and Morpeth. [13th November, 1855.]

HUNTER RIVER
TONNAGE DUTY.

WHEREAS it is contemplated by the Government to carry out extensive improvements of the navigation of the River Hunter and in the Ports of Newcastle and Morpeth and it is considered expedient to raise for those purposes a Tonnage Duty upon all vessels entering the said river from the sea Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof as follows :—

1. In order to meet the expenses of improving the Ports of Newcastle and Morpeth and the navigation of the River Hunter every ship or vessel entering the River Hunter from the sea shall be liable to defray expenses of improvements a duty of 6d. per ton made payable for all vessels entering the River Hunter.

Hunter River Tonnage Duty.

On certain vessels
once in four months
on others once in
two months.

to pay and the master thereof shall pay upon demand to the Sub-Collector of Customs at Newcastle or to such other person as shall be duly appointed to demand and receive the same on behalf of Her Majesty the sum of sixpence for every ton of the registered tonnage of such vessel Provided however that such Tonnage Duty shall not be required to be paid on account of any ship or vessel (except steamers navigating the river to ports above the Port of Newcastle) at any time within four months next after a previous payment thereof on account of such ship or vessel and that the same shall not be required to be paid on account of steamers so navigating at any time within two months next after such previous payment on account of such steamer And provided also that such Tonnage Duty shall not be demanded or become payable before the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

Dues to be paid into
Colonial Treasury
and to form a separate
fund for the purposes
of this Act.

2. The said Tonnage Duties shall by said Sub-Collector of Customs or such other person appointed to demand and receive the same be paid into the hands of the Colonial Treasurer to be by him placed to the credit of a separate account for the purposes of this Act and such Tonnage Duties shall form a fund for the purpose of improving the said ports and the navigation of the said river and shall (except as hereinafter provided) be applied exclusively to the carrying out of such improvements in the said ports and river as shall be determined upon and directed by the Governor with the advice of His Executive Council and to all expenses incidental thereto.

Power to borrow on
the security of the
dues and fund.

3. It shall be lawful for the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to borrow on the security of the General Revenues of the Colony by the sale of debentures bearing interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent. per annum such sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the sum of forty thousand pounds as shall from time to time be required for the purpose of making such improvements as aforesaid And all such sums shall be carried to the credit of the said Improvement Fund to be applied accordingly And all sums so borrowed shall be a charge upon the said Tonnage Duties and Fund and the interest to grow due thereon shall from time to time be paid out of the said fund as and when the same shall fall due and in like manner the principal thereof when due shall be repaid out of the residue of the said fund from time to time available for such purpose after payment of such interest and the necessary disbursements for the maintenance of the said works.

Expenditure to be
under control of
Legislative Council.

4. The entire expenditure of moneys upon the said works and otherwise in carrying out the purposes of this Act shall be subject to the control of the Legislative Council and shall be regulated by Votes and Acts of the said Council in the same manner as the ordinary public expenditure of the Colony and accounts of all income and revenues whatsoever received in relation to the works to be executed under this Act and of the expenditure thereof shall be annually laid before and shall be subject to examination by the said Legislative Council in the same manner as if the same were a part of the General Revenues of the said Colony.

Receipts to be sub-
ject to examination
in the Council.