

Sir G. Grey.

Thames and Waikato Railway.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Construction of a Railway from Grahamstown to the Waikato River. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient and desirable that a railway should be constructed from Grahamstown to the Waikato River, which railway there is reason to believe would yield a remunerative return on the capital to be expended in constructing it, and in working it when
5 constructed: And whereas, whilst it is expedient that the said railway should be constructed by private individuals, or by a company or copartnership, it is at the same time necessary, in order to induce such persons to undertake the construction and working of the said railway, that the Government should guarantee to the said persons an annual
10 interest of not more than per cent. per annum on the capital expended in constructing the said railway, such guarantee to continue for a certain term of years: And whereas it is expedient to empower the Governor to conclude a contract for the construction and working of the said railway, provided that the sum of three hundred thousand
15 pounds should be fixed and settled as the highest sum upon which the Governor shall guarantee the annual interest aforesaid: And whereas, in consideration of the advantages which will directly and immediately accrue to the owners of landed property in the vicinity of the said line of railway, it may hereafter be just and expedient that property situated
20 as aforesaid should be rated so far as may be necessary to make up an amount not exceeding one-half of any amount which the Governor may be called upon to pay in virtue of the guarantee aforesaid:

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

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Thames and Waikato Railway Act, 1876.” 5

Governor may contract with persons for construction of railway.

2. It shall be lawful for the Governor of New Zealand to make and conclude with any person or any company, and upon the best terms for the colony which the said Governor may be able to secure, a contract for the construction and working of the railway heretofore in the preamble of this Act described: Provided it shall be stipulated the sum upon which the annual interest aforesaid shall be guaranteed by the Colonial Government shall not exceed the sum actually expended in the construction of the said railway, nor exceed in any case the sum of three hundred thousand pounds sterling: And provided also that such interest shall not be guaranteed for any longer term than 15 years computed from the day of the opening for traffic of the first portion of the line of railway. 10

Interest guaranteed by contract to be a charge upon Consolidated Revenue.

3. All interest guaranteed by such contract as aforesaid is hereby declared to be a charge upon the consolidated revenue of the colony, and the Governor for the time being is hereby authorized to issue warrants to the Treasurer of the Colony for the payment of such interest. 20

Amount not exceeding one-half of interest paid from revenue may be charged on lands in vicinity of railway.

4. An amount not exceeding one-half of such sums of money as shall be paid or payable by or out of the consolidated revenue of the colony upon or by virtue of the guarantee aforesaid, may at any time, by Act of the General Assembly, be made a charge upon such counties or road districts as may be declared to be liable to such charge in the Act passed for that purpose by the General Assembly, and the rates for the purpose of levying the said sums shall be assessed in such manner and in such proportions as the General Assembly shall direct. 25 30

Governor may acquire land required for such railway, and may transfer the same to Contractors.

5. In order that such contract may be entered into without delay, it shall be lawful for the Governor to acquire the land required for such line of railway in the same manner as if the said railway were included amongst the railways already authorized to be constructed out of moneys borrowed by the colony, and to transfer the said line, when so acquired, to the person or company by whom the said railway shall have been agreed to be built. 35

Conditions to be set forth in contract.

6. In every such contract there shall be conditions to the effect set forth in the following subsections,—

- (1.) The Governor to acquire the land for the line railway stations works and buildings connected therewith, and to lease the same to the Contractors for a period of 40 years, at a nominal rent, or for such other period as may be agreed on, with reasonable conditions of forfeiture in the event of the Contractors failing to fulfil the contract; and the said railway and all stations buildings and works connected therewith to be free from all rates taxes and charges whatever. 45
- (2.) The Contractors to pay from time to time to the account of the Government the money to be spent on the works. 50
- (3.) The Governor, or such person or persons as he may appoint, to approve of the construction of the works.
- (4.) The Contractors to construct the railway with reasonable diligence, and within a period to be specified in the contract. 55
- (5.) The Contractors to undertake to keep the railway in repair, to run trains upon the line as often as in the agreement may be mentioned, to maintain such a rate of speed as may be agreed on, but that rate not to be less than 60 miles an hour, and to adopt from time to time such rates

of fares as the Governor may direct during the period during which the guarantee shall be payable.

- 5 (6.) Provision enabling the Governor at some period to be named, not exceeding twenty years, to purchase the railway at a valuation on giving twelve months' notice in writing that he desires to purchase.
- (7.) Provision that a portion, being not less than one quarter of the net profits above the amount of the guarantee, shall be paid to the Governor to recoup any money paid by the Governor on account of the guarantee.
- 10 (8.) The Governor to frame regulations and by-laws for the maintenance of order and securing the safety of the public.

7. The Contractor shall be bound to provide conveyances for and convey all military police and other forces when proceeding on duty, and all public mails, in the ordinary trains free of charge; and in the event of war or civil commotion, the said Contractor shall, on the requisition of the Governor, place the whole of the resources of the railway at his disposal at the charges actually incurred.

Contractor to provide conveyance for military and police free of charge.

8. The Governor, or such person as shall be duly authorized for that purpose, shall have power at all reasonable times to enter into and upon any such railway; and to establish and lay down a line of electric telegraph for Her Majesty's service, and to use the same, without any charge: Provided that the work to be done in laying down such line shall be done in such a manner as not to obstruct the working of the railway.

Telegraph may be laid down along line of railway without charge.

9. An account shall be kept of all moneys paid by or out of the consolidated revenue under or by virtue of the guarantee aforesaid, and of all moneys, if any, received under the assessment aforesaid, and a copy of such account, issued up to the latest date which shall be practicable, together with full information concerning the progress, working cost, and revenues of the railway, shall be laid before each House of the Legislature within twenty-one days next after the opening of each session of the General Assembly.

Account of expenditure and assessment to be laid before General Assembly.