

In regard to the suggested method of subsidizing rates, it is found that counties whose rates are low will receive less, while those whose rates are high will receive more than under the present system. Nevertheless, for the whole Dominion it is anticipated that the increase over the present total of £150,000 or thereabouts will not amount to more than £20,000 annually. By this suggested system it is anticipated that the tendency will be to form larger counties with higher standards of organization, and to stimulate progressive counties to still further efforts in the development of their districts and in the improvement of their roads.

Under the proposed Main Roads Bill it would appear that certain counties will be relieved of the maintenance of varying lengths of main roads, and consequently will be in a better position to deal with their remaining roads, while other counties (who will not be similarly relieved) are in positions that equally require financial relief. It is suggested that in order to obviate this apparent inequity all counties who are relieved of maintenance of portions taken over in terms of the Main Roads Bill shall contribute 50 per cent. of the average annual maintenance-costs of the portions so taken over, such average cost being computed from the annual costs of the three years immediately preceding the taking-over, and the Government shall have power to collect this contribution by deduction from the proposed subsidy on rates.

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SCHEDULE SHOWING FINANCIAL POSITION OF COUNTIES AFFECTED BY RECOMMENDATIONS.

County.	Area.	Amount of Valuation.	Date of Valuation.	System of Rating.	Loan Charges.	Average General Rate on Capital-value Basis.	Amount collect-able.	Government Subsidy, 1920.	Government Subsidy now suggested.	Difference.	Loss by Abolition of Toll-gates.
	sq. m.	£			£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Clifton ..	570	864,014	1911	Capital value	1,239	2.37	8,508	650	1,680	+1,030	1,350
Egmont ..	197	1,711,464	1914	"	3,356	2.41	17,252	1,000	3,465	+2,465	..
Eltham ..	201	1,914,187	1914	"	5,200	1.84	14,668	1,800	2,249	+449	2,502
Hawera ..	195	4,294,250	1919	"	3,661	1.35	24,174	2,341	2,720	+379	2,066
Inglewood ..	156	467,348	1920	Unimproved value	1,447	2.50	9,736	250	2,028	+1,778	..
Stratford ..	368	2,069,867	1920	Ditto ..	7,215	1.31	17,804	1,552	1,944	+392	2,368
Taranaki ..	239	816,629	1913	" ..	3,055	2.80	16,144	998	3,767	+2,769	1,704
Waimate West ..	88	2,086,100	1920	Capital value	3,589	1.46	12,686	1,049	1,543	+494	..
Waitotara ..	476	2,515,951	1916	"	770	1.25	13,104	1,950	1,365	-585	..
Wanganui ..	472	2,823,127	1916	"	2,842	1.72	20,213	2,037	2,897	+860	..
Totals								13,627	23,658	+10,031	9,990

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