

*Waitotara Road Board.*—Board of opinion present boundaries of road district are satisfactory, and do not wish any alteration made in Board's present constitution. Suggest better provision for regulating heavy traffic on roads.—J. LUPRON, Chairman.

*Waiuku Road Board.*—Waiuku Road Board thinks present system of local government best adapted to country districts, most economical and efficient. Small parts by proposed Bill will be overlooked. Strongly object to proposed change. Road Boards have done good work last thirty years. Object to franchise.—C. T. BARRIBALL, Chairman.

*Waiwakaiho Road Board.*—*Re Counties Bill*: Object to any provision whereby existing road districts shall be merged in counties. Otherwise approve of principles of Bill.—Wm. BOCOCK, Chairman.

*Wakanui Road Board.*—*Re Counties Bill*: No objection to Bill, except franchise and Second Schedule. Think present system election best and safest power. Second Schedule should be exercised only on petition of, say, three-fifths majority of ratepayers in each district affected. Would strongly object to any alterations in boundaries Wakanui Road District, as our district is self-contained and inexpensively managed; it also forms a riding of the Ashburton County Council.—GEORGE WILLIAM LEADLEY, Chairman.

*Wallingford Road Board.*—Wallingford Road Board suggests *re Counties Bill*, section four, ratepayers of road districts affected, not Governor in Council, should decide by poll the question of continuation of amalgamation. Section fifteen: Franchise should be confined to freeholders however small, and leaseholders of twelve months' tenancy; strike out (c). Section fifty-five: Road Board members should hold office for three years, not two years.—G. HUNTER, Chairman.

*Weber Road Board.*—We would much prefer to be a separate district quite apart from the county, but with all powers of a county, and with power to amalgamate with any other Road Board district, provided the majority in both districts are in favour of the amalgamation; the question to go to poll. We are in the Patangata County, and we strongly object to be merged in that county, as they are nearly all large landowners on the coast, and we would have no voice.—STEPHEN FRANKLYN, Chairman.

*West Eyreton Road Board.*—In answer to your telegram the West Eyreton Road Board consider that no alteration in system of local government by Road Boards should take place in any Road Board district unless ratepayers in such a district consent by vote to such alteration.—ADDINELL, Chairman.

*West Tamaki Road Board.*—For reply see Conference of Local Authorities, Manukau County.

*Whangamarino Road Board.*—The Whangamarino Road Board is opposed to the abolishing of Road Boards. The residents of district who use road know the requirements of road better than people at a distance who have no interest; they see road in all weathers; engineers only visit road in good weather. The franchise to extend to *bona fide* ratepayers, owner, or registered lease.—ROBT. LINDSAY, Clerk.

*Wharehine Road Board.*—Object to abolishing road districts. Unanimous vote to retain this district in its present form. Object to biennial election of Councillors; prefer three-years term. Councillors gain experience, and are better qualified for office; also save useless expense.—D. MARCROFT, Chairman.

*Whareora Road Board.*—Whareora Road Board approves clauses in new Counties Act relating to powers and functions of Road Boards, except as to franchise; Board upholds the present system—viz., ratepayers only should have the say in local elections, and not residential, as proposed in Bill.—JOHN DONALDSON, Chairman.

*Whataupoko Road Board.*—Following resolutions carried by majority Whataupoko Road Board: (1.) It is undesirable and unnecessary to extend the franchise, as proposed by Counties Bill, beyond freehold and ratepayers' qualifications. (2.) While approving of the proposed abolition of small Road Boards, this Board protests against all existing road districts of over five hundred population being merged into county; and also protests against retained road district being made ridings of the county, but, instead, the road district so retained should exist distinct from the county, with full power to rate up to six farthings, and sole control of all matters. (3.) That this Board also protests against any Town Boards that may be constituted under the Act being made ridings of the county.—A. FORDE MATTHEWS, Chairman.

*Wirikino Road Board.*—Copy of resolution passed by Wirikino Road Board 17th August, 1901: Resolved, that this Board recommends that the residential qualifications in subsection (c), clause 15, should be six months in place of three months, County Act.—E. H. SNOW, Clerk.

#### COPY OF CIRCULAR TELEGRAM AS SENT TO ALL CHAIRMEN OF TOWN BOARDS IN THE COLONY.

The Chairman, Town Board.

THE Counties Bill is being considered by the Local Government Committee of the House. Under this Bill all existing town districts become ridings of the county, and the County Councils may exercise therein all the rating and other powers of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1900," as if the district were a borough, but the Town Boards are to be dissolved. New town districts are to comprise nine square miles, no two points being distant more than six miles from one another, with population of five hundred, and will also be ridings without any Town Board (see section 4, subsections (8) to (13), and section 8 of Bill).

You are invited to wire any objections or recommendations your Board wishes to make on the proposal to abolish Town Boards, or on any other provision of the Bill, to Chairman, Local Government Committee, House of Representatives, Wellington, by the 21st August. Telegrams up to one hundred words can be franked by you.

R. McNAB, Chairman of Committee.