

This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives.
21st September, 1903.

Hon. Mr. Duncan.

BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	2. Encouragement of settlement on bush and swamp land.
1. Short Title.	

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Encouragement of Settlement on Bush and other Crown Lands. Title.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." Short Title.

2. (1.) The Governor, at his discretion, may, in setting apart any swamp or bush or scrub land to be disposed of by way of sale or selection under Part III., IV., or V. of "The Land Act, 1892," provide— Encouragement of settlement on bush and swamp land.

(a.) That no general rate shall be levied or collected by any local authority from such land for any period not exceeding *four* years in the case of heavy bush land, or *three* years in the case of light bush land or swamp land, or *two* years in the case of scrub land, from the date from which such land was disposed of, and no local authority shall have power to levy or collect any such rate from such land during such period;

(b.) That, after the first half-year's rent has been paid by the selector, the further instalments of rent payable by him for a period not exceeding *four* years in the case of heavy bush land, *three* years in the case of light bush land or swamp land, or *two* years in the case of scrub land, shall not be demanded:

Provided that if at any time during the first *seven* years of his occupancy the selector disposes of his interest in the land, the rent conceded under this section shall be paid in full unless the Land Board, having regard to the special circumstances of the case, considers that the incoming tenant should receive the benefit of the whole or any portion of the concession of rent granted to the first selector.

(2.) Nothing herein shall relieve the selector from the consequences of non-compliance with the conditions of the lease or license in respect to "residence" or "improvements" on bush or scrub land required by "The Land Act, 1892," and this Act.

(3.) The Land Board may exempt any tenant of swamp lands 5
from the conditions of residence for *five* years if he from time to time, according to the tenor of his lease or license, puts on the land comprised therein substantial improvements of a permanent nature to twice the amount actually required by section one hundred and forty-four of "The Land Act, 1892," anything therein to the contrary 10
notwithstanding.