

*Right Hon. Mr. Massey.*

## DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT.

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### A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Provision for the Settlement of Discharged Title.  
Soldiers on Crown and Settlement Lands.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Short Title.  
Act, 1915.

2. In this Act "discharged soldier" means any person who— Interpretation.

10 (a.) Has been a member of the New Zealand Naval Forces or of any Expeditionary Force;

(b.) Has served beyond New Zealand in connection with the present war;

(c.) Has returned to New Zealand; and

15 (d.) Has received his discharge from service, either before or after his return to New Zealand:

Provided that nothing in this Act shall apply to any person whose discharge from service was due to incapacity resulting from his own default or misconduct.

## SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS FOR OCCUPATION BY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

*Ordinary Tenures.*

Areas of Crown or of settlement land may be set apart for selection by discharged soldiers in manner prescribed by Land Act or Land for Settlements Act.

3. (1.) The Governor may from time to time, by Proclamation, set apart any area or areas of Crown land or of settlement land for selection by discharged soldiers under the Land Act, 1908, or the Land for Settlements Act, 1908. 5

(2.) Any Proclamation under this section may be at any time revoked in so far as it relates to any land that is not required or that is not suitable for the purpose for which it was set apart.

*Special Tenures.*

Special provisions for settlement of discharged soldiers on Crown or settlement land.

4. (1.) In addition to the powers conferred by the *last preceding* section, the Governor may from time to time, by Proclamation, set apart any area or areas of Crown land or of settlement land to be disposed of, by way of sale or lease, to discharged soldiers, in the manner hereinafter provided. 10 15

(2.) The land so set apart shall be subdivided into such allotments as the Land Board, with the approval of the Minister of Lands, determines.

(3.) Application for allotments under this section shall be addressed to the Land Board, and shall contain particulars as to the following matters:— 20

(a.) The name, address, and occupation of the applicant, and his occupation prior to becoming a member of the New Zealand Naval Forces or of any Expeditionary Force;

(b.) His service in the New Zealand Naval Forces or in an Expeditionary Force, specifying— 25

(i.) The Force of which he was a member;

(ii.) The period of his service, and the date of his discharge;

(iii.) The reason of his discharge; and 30

(iv.) Particulars as to any physical disability caused by wounds or disease resulting from his naval or military service;

(c.) The allotment or allotments for which application is made;

(d.) The purpose for which the applicant proposes to use the land; 35

(e.) The experience of the applicant in the business for which he proposes to use the land, or in any other class of farming;

(f.) The amount of capital available for expenditure by the applicant in connection with the land; 40

(g.) The nature and estimated amount of assistance, if any, that the applicant will require to enable him to work the land successfully; and

(h.) Such other particulars as may be required.

(4.) All applications under this section shall be dealt with by the Land Board, and it shall be the duty of the Board, in dealing with such applications, as far as practicable to assist applicants in acquiring suitable allotments. 45

(5.) Except as may be otherwise provided by this Act or by regulations under this Act, the provisions of the Land Act, 1908, or the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, or of any other Act relating to the administration of Crown or settlement land, shall not apply to lands disposed of under this section. 50

*Regulations.*

Regulations.

5. For the purpose of giving effect to the *last preceding* section, and generally for the purposes of this Act, the Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council gazetted, make regulations prescribing—

- (a.) With respect to any land, whether it shall be disposed of by way of sale or by way of lease :
- (b.) In the case of land to be disposed of by way of sale, the terms and conditions of such sale, including conditions relating to the payment of the purchase-money :
- 10 (c.) In the case of lands to be disposed of by way of lease, the conditions of such lease, including provisions as to—
- (i.) The form or forms of leases ;
- (ii.) The term or terms for which leases may be granted ;
- 15 (iii.) The acquisition of the fee-simple by lessees ;
- (iv.) Improvements to be effected by lessees ;
- (v.) Residence of lessees on the land ;
- (vi.) The method of computing the rent to be paid by lessees ; and
- 20 (vii.) The transfer, surrender, and forfeiture of leases :
- (d.) The application of any of the provisions of the Land Act, 1908, or of the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, or of any other Act relating to the administration of Crown or settlement land, to lands disposed of under section *four* hereof :
- 25 (e.) Such other matters as in the opinion of the Governor may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.
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## FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO SETTLERS UNDER THIS ACT.

6. (1.) In considering applications under section *four* hereof the Board shall take into consideration, either with or without special application, the advisability of assisting applicants with respect to any of the following matters :—

Minister may assist settlers with respect to erection of buildings, purchase of stock, &c.

- 35 (a.) The clearing, fencing, draining, and general improvement of lands disposed of under this Act ;
- (b.) The erection of buildings on any such land ; and
- 40 (c.) The purchase of implements, stock, seeds, plants, trees, and such other things as may be deemed necessary for the successful occupation of the land.

(2.) If in the opinion of the Board it is desirable that assistance should be given to the settler with respect to any or all of the foregoing matters, it shall make a recommendation to that effect to the Minister of Lands, and shall set out in its recommendation the nature and extent of the assistance recommended, and the grounds of the recommendation. On receipt of any such recommendation the Minister may take such action thereon as he thinks fit in accordance with regulations under this Act.

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(3.) All moneys advanced or expended by the Minister under the authority of this section in respect of any land shall bear interest at such rate as may be determined by the Minister, and shall be secured by way of a first mortgage over the said land or over the settler's interest in the said land :

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Provided that the Minister may, if he thinks fit, in any case of hardship dispense, either wholly or in part, with the payment of interest under this section.

Remission of rent.

7. The Board may, with the consent of the Minister, remit wholly or in part and for such period or periods as it thinks fit, any rent payable by a discharged soldier under a lease issued pursuant to this Act, or may postpone the due date for the payment of any such rent.

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## GENERAL.

Authority to raise £50,000 for purposes of Act.

8. (1.) For the purposes of this Act the Minister of Finance may from time to time raise, on the security of and charged upon the public revenues of New Zealand, such amount as he thinks fit, not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of *fifty* thousand pounds.

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(2.) The sums so raised shall, as and when raised, be paid into the Public Account to the credit of an account to be called the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account, and shall bear interest at such rate, not exceeding five per centum per annum, as the Minister of Finance prescribes.

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(3.) This Act shall be deemed to be an authorizing Act within the meaning of the New Zealand Loans Act, 1908, and the moneys hereby authorized to be raised shall be raised under and subject to the provisions of that Act accordingly.

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(4.) It shall be lawful for any society, trustees, or other persons having control of a war fund to invest any moneys belonging to such fund in debentures or other securities issued by the Minister of Finance for the purpose of raising any moneys under this section :

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Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be so construed as to limit or restrict the powers of any such society, trustees, or persons with respect to the investment of moneys belonging to a war fund.

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Expenses of administration.

9. (1.) All moneys required for the purposes of the administration of this Act shall be paid out of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account without further appropriation than this Act, and all moneys received by way of interest on or by way of repayment of moneys advanced or expended on behalf of any settler pursuant to section *six* hereof shall be paid into the said account.

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(2.) All moneys accruing from the sale or leasing of lands under this Act shall be disposed of as if they had accrued from the sale or leasing of Crown land under the Land Act, 1908, or of settlement land under the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, as the case may require.

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Act not to authorize sale of national endowment land.

10. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to authorize the sale of any national endowment land.

Restriction on right of transfer.

11. No land leased or sold to a discharged soldier under this Act shall, except with the consent of the Land Board and the approval of the Minister of Lands, be capable of being transferred until the expiry of ten years after the date of the commencement of the lease or the date of the sale.

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Discharged Soldiers Settlement.

12. The Valuer-General shall, on the request of the Minister, cause a special valuation to be made of any land set apart for the purposes of this Act under section *three* or section *four* hereof, and the value of the land as so determined shall for all purposes supersede any former valuation of the land, anything in the Land Act, 1908, or the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Minister may require new valuation to be made of lands set apart under this Act.

13. The right of any discharged soldier within the meaning of this Act to a pension or to the continuance of a pension under the War Pensions Act, 1915, shall not be affected by reason of any benefit to which he may become entitled under this Act.

Right to pension under War Pensions Act, 1915, not affected by this Act

14. (1.) The Minister of Lands shall in April of each year cause to be prepared a report showing, for the year ending on the preceding thirty-first day of March,—

Annual report.

- 15 (a.) The aggregate areas of land set apart under section *three* and section *four* hereof respectively;
- (b.) The number of applications received for such land, and the number of allotments and the aggregate area disposed of by way of sale and by way of lease respectively;
- 20 (c.) The amount expended in assisting settlers under this Act; and
- (d.) Such other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2.) Every such report shall be laid before Parliament within thirty days after the receipt thereof by the Minister if Parliament is then in session, and if not, then within thirty days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.