

Hon. Sir R. H. Rhodes.

FORESTS AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Forests Act, 1921-22.

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

5 1. This Act may be cited as the Forests Amendment Act, 1925, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Forests Act, 1921-22 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. Section eighteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to subsection two the words "or of settlement land."

10 3. (1.) Where any land acquired by the Crown under the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, or the Native Land Act, 1909, is set apart as a permanent or a provisional State forest under the principal Act, an amount equal to the capital value of the land so set apart, as determined by the Minister of Lands, shall without further authority than this section, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other Act, be transferred from the State Forests Account to the Land for Settlements Account or the Native Land Settlement Account, as the case may require.

20 (2.) All moneys transferred from the State Forests Account pursuant to this section shall be applied in redemption of loans outstanding in respect of the Land for Settlements Account or the Native Land Settlement Account, as the case may be.

Title.

Short Title.

Settlement land may be set apart as State forests.

Financial provisions when settlement land or other land acquired under special Act is set apart as State forests.

(3.) In addition to the sum which the Minister of Finance is authorized to borrow for the purposes of the principal Act, by virtue of section forty of that Act, the said Minister may borrow in the manner provided by that section all moneys required for the purpose of transfers under this section.

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Authorizing acquisition by way of exchange of land required for State forests.

Cf. 1924, No. 31, sec. 160

4. (1.) It shall be lawful for the Governor-General, whenever he deems it expedient in the public interest so to do, to grant in fee-simple any area of land comprised in a State forest in exchange for the fee-simple of any other land, and on any such exchange to pay or receive any sum by way of equality of exchange.

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(2.) Any sum so payable to the Crown by way of equality of exchange shall be paid out of moneys to be appropriated by Parliament out of the State Forests Account, and any sum so receivable by the Crown shall be paid into the State Forests Account.

(3.) All land acquired by the Crown by any such exchange shall be deemed, as from the date of its acquisition, to be set apart as a permanent State forest under the principal Act.

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Section 27 of principal Act (relating to fire districts) amended.

5. (1.) Section twenty-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one, and also from subsection three, the words "and by written notice to each landowner interested within the area."

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(2.) Written notice of the constitution of a fire district, or of the declaration of a closed season with respect thereto, shall be given under the hand of a Forest officer to every owner and occupier of land within the district, but failure to give any such notice shall not affect the validity of the constitution of the district or the declaration of a closed season.

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Private lands may be declared a fire district in certain cases.

6. (1.) The power conferred on the Minister by section twenty-seven of the principal Act to constitute any area not within a State forest as a fire district for the purpose of securing the safety of a State forest from damage by fire is hereby extended, and may be exercised to secure from damage by fire any trees, as defined by the principal Act, on any private or other lands of an area not less than two hundred acres.

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(2.) The power conferred by this section may be exercised on application by any owner or occupier of land proposed to be included in the fire district, but it shall not be necessary for all such owners or occupiers to concur in the application.

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Consequential amendment of section 48 of principal Act.

Restriction on right of Minister to grant leases of forest land for grazing purposes.

(3.) Section forty-eight of the principal Act is hereby consequentially amended by adding to subsection one the words "or in any fire district."

7. Notwithstanding anything in section thirty-two of the principal Act, no lease of land comprised in a provisional State forest shall be granted for a longer term than one year for grazing or other purposes of a like nature, as defined by paragraph (a) of subsection two of that section, save with the prior consent in writing of the Minister of Lands.

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Extending provision for protection of State forest from damage by fire.

8. Section forty-four of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (a) of subsection one the words "fifty yards," and substituting the words "twenty chains."

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Cattle trespassing in State forest may be destroyed or sold.

9. (1.) All unbranded cattle above the age of six months, or apparently above that age, which are at any time depasturing in a State forest on land not comprised in a lease for grazing purposes granted pursuant to section thirty-two of the principal Act, and which have no reputed owner, shall be deemed to be the property of His Majesty, and

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any Forest officer authorized in that behalf by the Director may cause such cattle to be destroyed, sold, or otherwise disposed of, as he thinks fit.

(2.) The proceeds of the sale of any such cattle shall be paid into the State Forests Account.

10. Section sixty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to paragraph (e) the words "and prescribing reasonable charges to be paid to the Crown in respect of services rendered by Forest officers."

Regulations may fix charges to be paid for services rendered by Forest officers.