

Mr. O'Regan.

FREE LAND.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide Better Facilities for Land-settlement.

Title.

WHEREAS it is desirable to provide increased facilities for the settlement of the Crown lands of the colony :

Preamble.

5 BE IT THEREFORE 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 Free Land Act, 1895."

Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—

Interpretation.

10 "Improvements" means all clearing, building, fencing, grassing, ploughing, draining, roading, or other amelioration :

"Unimproved value" means the value remaining after deducting the value of all improvements.

15 "Crown lands" means lands not previously alienated, and does not include lands purchased from Natives or from any person under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894."

3. Any person desirous of settling on Crown lands may acquire any area not exceeding five hundred acres, on application at the Land Office of the district, on the following conditions: The land, on being surveyed, shall be assigned to the applicant, and for a term of three years thereafter no rent shall be charged for the same; but on and after the expiration of that term an annual rent of four per centum on the unimproved value shall be charged; and the cost of survey, or any other cost incidental to putting the applicant in possession, shall be added to the rent.

Land, how acquired.

4. At the end of every fifth year after the first assessment there shall be a re-assessment.

Provision for re-assessment.

5. Assessments shall be made in the following manner: The value of the land, including all improvements, shall be first ascertained; the improvements shall then be valued separately, and the value of the same deducted from the sum of the improved and unimproved value taken together.

Assessments, how made.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in section three of this Act, the Minister of Lands may, on being satisfied that the land applied for is of inferior quality, grant applications for more than five hundred acres under the provisions of this Act.

Minister may grant any area if satisfied that land is of inferior quality.

7. The first applicant for any land under this Act shall be deemed to have the prior right.

First applicant to have prior right.