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(Sir Cracroft Wilson.)

Grass and Forest Fires Prevention.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Penalties for setting fire to corn or grass, or leaving fire burning. When lawful to light</p>	<p>a fire. Notice of intention to light fire to be given.</p> <p>3. Persons camping to have names on vehicles.</p> <p>4. Summary procedure.</p>
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BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make provision for the prevention of Grass and Forest Fires. 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 shall be "The Grass and Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1874." Short Title.

2. If any person shall (except as hereinafter mentioned) ignite or use, or carry when ignited, any inflammable material within twenty yards of any growing crops or stack of corn pulse or hay, or of any stubble field or grass land or wood land, and thereby the property of any other person shall be injured or destroyed, or if any person shall leave any fire which he may have lighted or used in the open air or in any forest before the same be thoroughly extinguished, he shall forfeit and pay for every such offence any sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, or be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding six months : Penalties for setting fire to corn or grass, or leaving fire burning.

Provided that it shall be lawful for the occupier of any land to burn any straw stubble grass or herbage, or to ignite any wood or other inflammable material on such land, after he shall have cleared of inflammable substance a space of land around the straw stubble grass or herbage intended to be burnt, or wood or other inflammable material intended to be ignited, of not less than twenty yards in breadth ; When lawful to light a fire.

and after he shall have given to the occupiers of all land contiguous to the land from or on which the straw stubble grass or herbage is intended to be burnt or inflammable material to be ignited, notice in writing, at least twenty-four hours before burning or igniting as aforesaid, of the time at which it is his intention so to burn or ignite :

Provided further that it shall be lawful for the occupier of any grass lands between the hours of six of the clock in the forenoon and nine of the clock in the afternoon, to burn off any grass or herbage from any such land in his occupation, after giving the like notice in writing as hereinbefore directed of his intention so to do to the occupiers of all land contiguous to the land from which the grass or herbage is intended to be burnt, and after having drawn plough furrows for a width of not less than three feet on either side of such grass or herbage : Notice of intention to light fire to be given.

Provided also that nothing in this section contained shall be taken to apply to any city town or borough within No. 87—1.

the operation of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1867," or any other Act for the time being in force for the regulation and management of Municipal Corporations.

Persons camping to
have names on
vehicles.

3. If any person who shall camp or halt on any land with any vehicle, and shall light or use a fire on such land, shall not have the owner's name or place of abode painted in a legible and permanent manner on the right or off side of such vehicle, in letters of at least one inch in length, he shall forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum not exceeding twenty pounds: Provided that nothing in this or the last preceding section shall take away or interfere with, or be construed to take away or interfere with, the right of any person to sue for and recover at common law or otherwise compensation for or in respect of any damage occasioned by the reckless or negligent use of fire.

Summary procedure.

4. All proceedings for any penalty made recoverable under this Act may be taken in a summary way under the provisions of "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1866."