

A BILL INTITLED

AN ACT to make provision for the Final Settlement of Land Claims. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make final provision for the settlement of Land Claims arising out of purchases from the Aboriginal Inhabitants of New Zealand or out of alleged contracts promises provisions and engagements of the Crown in reference to such purchases Preamble.

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 shall be "The Land Claims Final Settlement Act 1868." Short Title.

2. Claims arising out of purchases from the aboriginal inhabitants of New Zealand or out of alleged contracts promises and engagements of the Crown in reference to such purchases may be determined under the provisions of this Act. Claims under purchases from Natives may be settled under this Act.

3. No claim shall be admitted under this Act unless a notification thereof shall have been made in writing to and filed with the Land Claims Commissioner before the thirty-first day of December eighteen hundred and sixty-nine and a fee of ten pounds paid at the time of the filing thereof. Claims to be sent in before the 31st December, 1869.

4. No claim shall be entertained under the provisions of this Act— Classes of claims excluded.

(1.) Which shall not have been notified to and heard or partly heard or investigated by a Land Claims Commissioner

(2.) In respect whereof the claimant shall have already received a grant of the piece of land which he actually bought from the Natives

(3.) Or in respect whereof the claimant shall have surrendered his claim to the Government in exchange for scrip money or debentures Provided that this shall not be held to exclude claims arising out of purchases made under the Proclamation of Governor Fitzroy dated tenth October eighteen hundred and forty-four commonly known as "The Penny-an-Acre Proclamation."

5. Every claimant whose claim may be admitted under this Act shall at the same time as he notifies the same sign a declaration that he will accept the provisions of this Act as a final and conclusive settlement.

6. In all claims admitted under this Act and notwithstanding anything in "The Land Claims Settlement Act 1856" and "The Land Claims Settlement Extension Act 1858" contained in which in the judgment of a Land Claims Commissioner hardship or injustice shall have been done or suffered or insufficient settlement made such Land Claims Commissioner shall hear consider or reconsider any such claim and decide the same according to equity and good conscience and may direct a grant of land or compensation in land as he may think equitable according to the circumstances Provided always that such direction shall not have the force of law until the expiration of thirty days after such direction shall have been laid before the General Assembly in its next ensuing Session nor shall it give any claim to compensation should this Act be repealed or amended by the Legislature during the Session of the Assembly next ensuing.

claimants to sign
declaration.

Commissioner to
hear on claims.
Decision not to take
effect until after
thirty days after
having been laid
before the Assembly.

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