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This Public Bill originated in the House of Representatives, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives, 28th October, 1912.

As reported from the Committee of the whole Council.

Hon. Mr. Massey.

LAND LAWS AMENDMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

Title.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Crown and other Lands. BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1912.

PART I.

Principal Act defined.

2. This Part of this Act shall form part of and be read together with the Land Act, 1908, which Act is in this Part referred to as 10 the principal Act.

Plans of towns to be approved by Governor. 3. (1.) Where any land is subdivided for sale or lease or other disposition as a town, a plan of such subdivision showing the roads and reserves proposed to be made and the proposed name of the town shall be prepared by a licensed surveyor and approved by 15 the Governor in Council before any part of the land is so disposed of or offered or advertised for disposition.

(2.) Every person who, being an owner of any such land, disposes of any land so subdivided or offers or advertises the same for disposition before a plan of the subdivision is approved by the Governor 20

as aforesaid is liable to a fine of one hundred pounds.

(3.) In no case shall the plan of any such town be deposited under the Land Transfer Act, 1908, or the Deeds Registration Act, 1908, nor shall the transfer of any allotment or subdivision shown on any such plan be registered unless the plan has been duly approved 25 in terms of this section:

Provided that no right-of-way in any subdivision of land for a town shall be of less width than sixty-six feet, except with the consent of the Governor in Council.

Repeal.

Appointment of Deputy

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

(4.) Section sixteen of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

4. (1.) The Minister may from time to time, by writing under his hand, appoint a fit person to be the Deputy of any Commissioner of Crown Lands to act in case of the death, illness, or unavoidable absence of the Commissioner.

New.

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(1a.) The Minister may from time to time by writing under his hand appoint a fit person to be the Deputy of any Chief Surveyor to act in case of the death, illness, or unavoidable absence of the Chief Surveyor.

(2.) Every such Deputy, while so acting, shall have and may 40 exercise all the powers, duties, and functions, and shall be subject to all the responsibilities of the Commissioner officer of whom he is Deputy.

(3.) The fact of a Deputy exercising any power, duty, or function as aforesaid shall be conclusive proof of his authority to do so, and no person shall be concerned to inquire whether the occasion 45 has arisen requiring or authorizing the Deputy so to do.

5. (1.) All moneys accruing from the sale of any Crown lands shall be paid into the Land for Settlements Account and not into the Consolidated Fund, and section nineteen of the principal Act shall be read and construed accordingly.

Moneys derived from sale of Crown lands to be paid into Land for Settlements Account.

(2.) This section shall not affect any Act by which Crown lands have been set apart or appropriated for the repayment of any loan or otherwise charged with any payment.

(3.) This section shall come into operation on the first day of

5 April, nineteen hundred and thirteen.

6. Section forty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended Section 41 of

by inserting after subsection three the following subsection:—

"(3A.) No person who is for the time being carrying on business as a land agent, either by himself or jointly with any other 10 person, shall be eligible to be appointed, or elected, or to continue to be a member of the Land Board."

New.

6A. Section forty-one of the principal Act is hereby further amended by adding, at the end of subsection five, the words "for the purposes of this subsection 'Crown lands' includes—

"(a.) National endowment land; and

"(b.) Land vested in the Crown under the Education Reserves Amendment Act, 1910."

7. Subsection one of section forty-seven of the principal Act is Section 47 of 20 hereby amended by omitting the word "ten" and substituting the amended. word "fifteen."

principal Act

amended.

8. (1.) In every case where it is provided by the principal Act or Uniform system this Act that any matter shall be referred to arbitration the reference shall be deemed to be a submission within the meaning of the 25 Arbitration Act, 1908, and that Act shall accordingly apply.

of arbitration established.

(2.) In every such case the reference shall be to two arbitrators, one to be appointed by each party to the reference.

(3.) Each party shall pay his own costs of and incidental to the reference and to the appointment of the arbitrator appointed by him 30 but the costs of and incidental to the appointment of the umpire shall be paid equally by the parties:

Provided that all costs of or incidental to any arbitration under section one hundred and eighty-four or section one hundred and

ninety-two of the principal Act shall be paid by the lessee.

(4.) Section eighty of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

(5.) Section one hundred and eighty-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting all the words of subsection one after the word "accordingly," and by repealing subsections two and

Repeal.

Section 187 of principal Act amended.

9. Subsection one of section ninety of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

"(1.) Every lease or license issued under this Act, and every renewal of a lease or license issued under this Act or any former Land Act, shall be executed in triplicate by the Commissioner on 45 behalf of His Majesty and by the lessee or licensee."

Section 90 of principal Act amended.

10. (1.) Section one hundred and three of the principal Act is Section 103 of hereby amended by adding the following subsections as follows:—

principal Act

Struck out.

"(2A.) An applicant who is the owner of land of an area which, 50 in the opinion of the Board, is insufficient to maintain himself and his family shall be deemed to be landless if he undertakes in writing to transfer such land to some other landless person before he is put into possession of the land for which he is an applicant, such transfer to be executed within six months from the date of [ballot.

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New.

(a.) By omitting subsection two thereof, and substituting the following subsection:-

"(2AA.) An applicant is landless within the meaning of this section if he does not hold under any tenure such area of land. whether Crown land or not, as in the opinion of the Board is sufficient for the maintenance of himself and his family:

"Provided that the Board may, as a condition precedent to approving an application for land, require any such applicant to divest himself, within six months from the date of the approval of the 10 application, of any interest which he may have in any other land. Until the applicant has so divested himself of such interest he shall not be deemed to have any interest in the land to which his application relates, and if he fails so to divest himself his deposit shall be forfeited"; and

(b.) By adding thereto the following new subsection:—

"(4.) At every such ballot preference shall be given to landless applicants who have children dependent on them, or who have within the two years immediately preceding the date of the ballot competed at least twice unsuccessfully at any previous land-ballot, 20 whether under the principal Act or the Land for Settlements Act, 1908."

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(2.) Sections one hundred and four and one hundred and five

of the principal Act are hereby repealed.

11. Section one hundred and nine of the principal Act and 25 section eleven of the Land for Settlements Administration Act, 1909, are hereby amended in each case by striking out the word "five," before the word "years," and substituting the word "seven."

12. Section one hundred and seventeen of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

"117. (1.) In the event of any such Crown tenant as defined in section one hundred and sixteen hereof being unable at any time, through any natural disaster or other sufficient cause, to pay the rent due under his lease or license, then, on the recommendation of the Board, and on being satisfied that it would be reasonable and 35 equitable to afford relief, the Minister may postpone the payment of not more than one year's rent at any one time by such Crown tenant until such date as he may determine, and may from time to time further postpone payment of the whole or any portion of the said rent to a later date:

"Provided that the amount that may be so postponed shall not

exceed three years' rent in the aggregate.

"(2.) Interest at the rate of four per centum per annum shall be payable on the amount of rent so postponed, and that amount, together with the interest thereon, shall be a charge on the land. 45 Such charge shall have priority over all existing or subsequent mortgages, charges, or other incumbrances, other than those existing on the commencement of this Act.

"(3.) On any application for the transfer of any land so charged the Board may, if it thinks fit, before approving the transfer, make it 50 a condition that the amount of the charge or any part thereof shall

be paid.

Repeal.

Section 109 of principal Act amenđed.

Repeal.

Minister may postpone payment of rent by Crown tenant in certain cases.

"(4.) This and the last preceding section shall apply to leases and licenses current on the coming into operation of this Act, as well as to those hereafter granted."

13. Subsection one of section one hundred and twenty-eight of Section 128 of the principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted principal Act

in lieu thereof:—

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"(1a.) Any selector of less than six hundred and forty acres of land under this Act, or under the provisions of any former Land Act, on any tenure, may apply to the Board for an additional area of surveyed or unsurveyed land contiguous to the land in his selection, and the Board if it thinks fit, but subject to the limitations of this Act, may dispose of such land to the applicant without competition on such tenure and at such a price as the Board with the approval of the Minister may-decide-upon determines.

Struck out.

14. Section one hundred and twenty-nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the word "unsurveyed" in subsection one, and substituting the word "any" in lieu thereof.

principal Act amended.

Act amended.

Section 129 of

15. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in section one hundred and Sections 171 to seventy-one of the principal Act, the right of purchase conferred 174 of principal on a selector by that section shall be exercisable at any time after six years from the date of his license.

(2.) All references in sections one hundred and seventy-one, one hundred and seventy-three, and one hundred and seventy-four to

ten years shall be deemed to be references to six years.

16. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in Part VII of the principal National Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he deems it endowment land expedient in the public interest so to do, to grant in fee-simple any for other land. area of national endowment land in exchange for the fee-simple of 30 any other land which, in his opinion, is of approximately equal value, and on any such exchange to pay or receive by way of equality of exchange any sum not exceeding twenty-five per centum of the estimated value of the national endowment land so granted:

Provided that the power hereby conferred on the Governor shall be exercisable only on the recommendation of the Board of Land Purchase Commissioners under the Land for Settlements Act, 1908.

(2.) Any sum so payable by the Crown by way of equality of exchange shall be paid out of the National Endowment Account without further appropriation than this Act, and all moneys receivable by the Crown under this section shall be paid into the said account, and shall be applied in the acquisition of other land for the purposes of the national endowment.

(3.) All land acquired by the Crown in pursuance of this section shall thereupon become national endowment land, and subject

accordingly to the provisions of Part VII of the principal Act.

17. (1.) The revenue received from national endowment land, National after deducting all sums which are now payable therefrom to any local or public authority, shall be paid by the Receiver of Land Revenue into the Public Account, to the credit of the National 50 Endowment Account.

(2.) Out of the moneys in the National Endowment Account there shall be paid the cost of the administration of the national endowment land.

Repeal.

Provisions as to limitation not applicable in certain cases where land acquired in public interests. (3.) Sections two hundred and sixty-one and two hundred and sixty-two of the principal Act are hereby repealed.

18. (1.) When, in the opinion of the Governor, it is desirable that small areas of freehold land or of land leased from the Crown, not exceeding in any one case five acres in extent, may be acquired 5 for any purpose beneficial to the public by any person who already holds the prescribed maximum area of land, the purchaser shall not be required to make any declaration required by section eighty-four or section three hundred and forty-two of the principal Act, but may acquire such additional area irrespective of the area of land already 10 held by that person.

(2.) The District Land Registrar is hereby empowered and directed to register a transfer of any such area to any such person if the said transfer has indorsed thereon a certificate signed by the Minister that the Governor has consented to the transfer as being in 15

the public interest.

Provisions of Part XIII of principal Act not to apply in certain cases. 19. (1.) The provisions of Part XIII of the principal Act shall not apply to,—

(a.) Any interest acquired under sections eleven, one hundred and forty, or one hundred and forty-two of the principal 20 Act:

(b.) Any interest acquired in respect of land received from the Crown or any local authority pursuant to any contract or arrangement for exchange of land for roads or any public purpose:

(c.) Any interest acquired in respect of land formerly used or laid off as a road, but subsequently closed or stopped, whether under the provisions of the Public Works Act

or any other enactment, and sold to any person.

(2.) This section shall apply to all interests hereinbefore men-30 tioned acquired since the twentieth day of November, nineteen hundred and seven (being the date of the passing of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907), and any memorandum under section three hundred and forty-six of the principal Act on any certificate of title for any such interest shall, on the application of any person 35 interested, be removed or cancelled by the District Land Registrar.

(3.) Section nine of the Public Works Amendment Act, 1911, is

hereby repealed.

20. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in the Kauri-gum Industry Act, 1908, the Governor may set apart land in a kauri-gum district, 40 being either a portion of a kauri-gum reserve or Crown land outside such reserve, in allotments not exceeding twenty-five acres in any one case for selection under this section.

- (2.) Such allotments shall be disposed of by way of license to occupy with right of purchase in pursuance of Part III of the 45 principal Act, or by way of license to occupy with an agreement to purchase on deferred payment in pursuance of regulations under this section.
- (3.) A license to occupy with an agreement to purchase on deferred payment shall be for a term of fifteen years, and the 50 purchase-money shall be paid by equal half-yearly instalments, the first instalment being payable on the commencement of the sixth year after the date of the license:

Repeal.

Settlement of land within a kauri-gum district.

Provided that the licensee may, if he thinks fit, pay any part of the purchase-money before the due date of such first instalment.

(4.) No rent shall be payable under a license to occupy with right of purchase in respect of the first five years of the term of such 5 license.

(5.) The allotments shall be selected only by British subjects who are holders of kauri gum digging licenses, and no selector shall hold more than one allotment unless he is a married man or a widower and has children dependent on him, in which case he may 10 select more than one allotment, subject to conditions to be prescribed by regulations.

(6.) The conditions relating to application, selection, transfer, residence, occupation, and permanent improvements of land to which this section relates shall, subject to the provisions of this section and of regulations thereunder, be in accordance with Part III

of the principal Act.

(7.) The Governor may from time to time make regulations fixing the terms and conditions on which such allotments may be applied for, disposed of, and occupied, subject to the foregoing provisions.

Struck out.

21. Section fifty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection two the word "adjoining."

22. The principal Act is hereby amended in the manner and to Miscellaneous 25 the extent mentioned in the Schedule hereto.

Section 51 of principal Act amended.

amendments of principal Act.

Small Grazing-runs and Pastoral Runs.

23. Section two hundred and eight of the principal Act (relating Repeal. to the classification and proclamation of small grazing-runs) is hereby repealed, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—

"208. (1.) Any pastoral lands may be classified by the Board as classification of

small grazing-runs.

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"(2.) Upon such classification being approved by the Minister the Governor may from time to time by Proclamation set aside the lands so classified, and subdivide them into such small grazing-run areas, not exceeding twenty thousand acres in any run, as he thinks fit.

"(3.) All such small grazing-runs shall be disposed of under this Part of this Act."

24. Section two hundred and nine of the principal Act (relating Section 209 of 40 to the leasing of small grazing-runs) is hereby amended by repealing principal Act amended. subsection one thereof, and substituting the following:-

"(1.) Such runs may be declared open for lease on application at such yearly rent as is fixed by the Board and approved by the Governor."

25. (1.) Section two hundred and eighteen of the principal Act Section 218 of (providing for renewals of leases of small grazing-runs) is hereby principal Act amended by omitting the words "or other determination" and substituting the words "by effluxion of time."

(2.) This section shall apply to existing leases as well as to those hereafter granted.

small grazing-runs.

Governor may set apart unoccupied pastoral land as grassing-areas.

26. (1.) The Governor may from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, set apart any area of unoccupied pastoral land specified in the notice as a grassing-area for the purpose of making experiments in the sowing and growing of grasses.

(2.) The Governor may also from time to time by a like notice 5 resume any area (not exceeding three hundred acres) of land comprised in a pastoral license, and thereupon the rent reserved by the

said license shall be proportionately abated:

Provided that the area so resumed shall not include any home-

stead-buildings or stockyards.

(3.) The cost of such experiments shall be defrayed out of moneys from time to time appropriated by Parliament for that

purpose.

Resumption may be revoked and area restored to run.

27. In any case where land has been resumed as aforesaid the Governor may at any time, by notice in the Gazette, revoke the resump- 15 tion, and thereupon a pastoral license of the land shall be offered to the original licensee or his successor in title for the remainder of the term of his license at a rent to be determined by the Board, and if he does not within two months after the date of such offer accept the same, the land shall be held and disposed of under such of the 20 provisions of the Land Acts as the Board with the approval of the Minister thinks fit.

License may be extended for losses caused by snow-falls.

28. (4) Where the holder of a pastoral license has suffered exceptional loss of live-stock by reason of the severity of the winter and the heavy falls of snow, and such loss has crippled his 25 resources, the license of such holder may be extended for such period not exceeding seven years as, in the opinion of the Minister and the Land Board, seems equitable.

Struck out.

(2.) The license during such extended period shall be held 30 on similar terms and conditions as are embodied therein.

29. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in section two hundred and eighteen of the principal Act (relating to the renewal of leases of small grazing-runs), the Minister may, on the recommendation of the Land Board, determine that the land comprised in any such lease 35 shall, on the expiry of that lease, be disposed of in two or more allotments by way of lease as hereinafter described and the said land shall

be so disposed of accordingly.

(2.) Forthwith upon such determination the land comprised in the said run shall be subdivided into two or more allotments, and a 40 valuation in the manner prescribed by paragraph (a) of the said section two hundred and eighteen shall be made of the substantial improvements of a permanent character made and then in existence on the said land, and the value of such improvements shall be apportioned among the several allotments in such manner as the 45 appraiser making the valuation thinks fit.

(3.) Upon the expiration of the lease of the small grazing-run the lessee shall be entitled to receive a lease of such one of the allotments into which the said run has been subdivided as he elects.

(4.) On the expiration of the original lease the lessee shall be 50 entitled to receive the value of the improvements together with the value, if any, of the right of renewal which he would have had, if this section had not passed, with respect to the allotments of which he has not been granted a new lease.

On expiry of lease of small grazing-run, land may be disposed of by lease.

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(5.) The value of the right of renewal provided for by the last preceding subsection shall be determined by arbitration in the manner

prescribed by section *eight* hereof.

(6.) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of 5 this section, if the improvements on the said land have become for any reason appreciated or depreciated in value between the date of valuation and the expiration of the lease of the small grazing-run, the amount of such appreciation or depreciation shall be assessed in manner provided by section one hundred and eighty-seven of the 10 principal Act, and shall be added to or deducted from the value as so determined.

(7.) Every lease under this section shall be for a term of twentyone years, with a right of renewal from time to time for a further term of twenty-one years exercisable in the same manner as in the 15 case of renewable leases under Part III of the principal Act, and all the provisions of that Act relating to the renewal of renewable leases shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to leases under this section.

PART II.

Purchase of Freehold of Lease-in-perpetuity Lands.

20 30. This Part of this Act shall form part of and be read This Part to be read together with the Land Act, 1908, which Act is in this Part of this with Land Act. Act referred to as the principal Act.

31. In this Part of this Act, if not inconsistent with the Interpretation.

context, 25

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"Notice" means a notice in writing signed by a lessee of land held under lease in perpetuity of the lessee's intention to purchase the fee-simple of the land:

"Original capital value" means the amount upon which the yearly rental of four per centum was computed at the

date of the lease:

"Price" means the price at which land held under lease in perpetuity may be purchased, ascertained in the manner provided by this Part of this Act.

32. (1.) The owner of a lease in perpetuity shall have a right Owner of lease 35 at any time hereafter during the existence of the lease to purchase in perpetuity may purchase the fee-simple of the land comprised in the lease at a price ascer-fee-simple. tained and determined in the manner provided by this Part of this Act.

(2.) The right of purchase hereby conferred shall be exercised by 40 giving notice to the Commissioner.

(3.) The delivery of the notice to the Commissioner shall constitute a contract between the lessee and the Crown for the purchase and sale of the said land.

(4.) The lessee shall in the notice notify whether he elects to purchase for cash or upon deferred payments.

33. The price shall be computed as follows:—

(a.) A-sum-equal-to-one-half t The difference between a rental at purchased. five per centum per annum and a rental at four per centum per annum on the original capital value shall be treated as having been payable by the purchaser to the Crown in

Computation of

each year from the date of the lease, and accordingly a sum equal to one-half, such difference shall be deemed to have become due by the purchaser to the Crown on each half-yearly day appointed by the lease for the payment of rent prior to from the date of the lease to the date of the delivery of the notice, and to have remained unpaid.

(b.) Upon each such sum interest shall be computed at the rate of four per centum per annum, compounded with half-yearly rests from the date when such sum is treated as having become due until the date of the delivery of the 10 notice.

(c.) The aggregate of the sums mentioned in paragraph (a) hereof and the aggregate of the interest computed as directed by paragraph (b) hereof shall be added to the original capital value and the total shall be the price.

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34. If the lessee elects to purchase for cash—

(a.) He shall within three months after the delivery of the notice pay the price, together with all rent accrued and accruing due under the lease up to the date of the delivery of the notice, and also interest at five per centum 20 per annum on the price from that date to the date of payment, and upon such payments being made in full, the purchase shall be deemed to have been completed.

(b.) If he makes default in any such payment within the time aforesaid, the Board may, in its discretion, cancel and determine the contract of purchase, and the lessee shall continue to hold the land under his lease in perpetuity, but in such case the lessee shall not be entitled to again give a notice until the expiration of five years from the

delivery of the first-mentioned notice.

35. If the lessee elects to purchase upon deferred payments,—

(a.) He shall, within three months after the delivery of the notice, pay a deposit equal to ten per centum of the price, together with all rent accrued and accruing due under the lease up to the date of the delivery of the notice.

(b.) Upon such payment the lease shall determine, and he shall hold the land under license to occupy, but such license shall be subject to any right, title, interest, or incumbrance existing or vested in any person other than the lessee affecting the lease at the time of such determination. 40

(c.) The license to occupy shall provide for the payment of the balance of ninety per centum of the price by equal annual instalments extending over a period of nine years, with a right to the licensee to pay off at any time the whole or any part of the price then remaining unpaid, and shall 45 also provide for the payment by the licensee of interest half-yearly at the rate of five per centum per annum from the date of the delivery of the notice upon such part of the price as for the time being remains unpaid.

(d.) The license to occupy shall be in the prescribed form, and 50 shall contain (and the right of the licensee shall be subject to) such provisions for forfeiture of the right and interest

Purchases for cash.

Purchases on deferred payment. of the licensee in the event of his failure to pay any instalment of the price or to make any payment of interest as may be prescribed.

(e.) Upon payment of the price in full and of all interest, the

purchase shall be deemed to be completed.

36. The computation of the price and of all other payments to Computation be made as herein provided, whether the lessee elects to purchase be made by for cash or on deferred payments, shall be made by the Commissioner Commissioner. or by some person appointed by the Commissioner in that behalf, 10 and by such computation the price and all such other payments shall be conclusively ascertained and determined for all purposes.

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37. (1) On the completion of a purchase by the lessee in the on completion case of purchase for cash or by the licensee in the case of a purchase Crown grant to on deferred payments, the Board shall certify to the Minister that be issued to the lessee or licensee is entitled to a Crown grant of the land pur-purchaser. chased, and a Crown grant accordingly shall in due course be issued to him.

(2.) The fee-simple so granted shall continue to be subject to any right, title, interest, or incumbrance existing or vested in any person other than the lessee or licensee at the time of such completion.

38. The provisions of section ninety-seven of the principal Act section 97 of as to the limitation of areas shall apply to the exercise of a right of principal Act to purchase under this Part of this Act as if the purchaser were not purchase by lessee. 25 already in occupation of the land in respect of which the right of purchase exists.

39. The Governor may, by Order in Council, make such Regulations. regulations as he considers necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Part of this Act.

40. The provisions of this Part of this Act do not apply to land This Part of which is subject to the provisions of the Land for Settlements Act, applicable to settlement land

41. Section one hundred and seventy-seven of the principal Act Repeal. is hereby repealed.

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PART III.

AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS FOR SUBDIVISION.

Struck out.

42. For the purposes of this Part of this Act, the term "Owner" defined. "owner" means the person or all the persons who are for the time 40 being beneficially entitled (whether legally or equitably) to the feesimple of any land.

42A. In this Part of this Act, if not inconsistent with the con- Interpretation.

"Minister" means the Minister of Lands:

"Owner" means the person or all the persons for the time being beneficially entitled (whether legally or equitably) to the fee-simple of any land.

Agreements for subdivision of private land for settlement purposes. 43. (1.) The Minister may, after consultation with the Land Purchase Board, agree in writing with an owner to the effect defined in this Part of this Act with respect to any land of such owner, provided that every person entitled under any mortgage or charge registered against the land under the Deeds Registration Act, 1908, 5 or the Land Transfer Act, 1908, shall be a party to and execute such agreement.

Particulars of agreements.

(2.) Every such agreement shall provide that—

(a.) A plan of subdivision of the land into allotments shall be made by a surveyor appointed by the Minister.

(b.) The plan of subdivision shall define such roads, bridges, and improvements as the surveyor considers necessary or expedient.

(c.) The plan prepared by the surveyor shall be approved in writing by the Minister and the owner respectively.

- (d.) The plan may be varied in any respect from time to time with the consent in writing of the Minister and the owner.
- (e.) Upon the plan being approved, the land shall, within a time to be appointed in that behalf by the Minister, be 20 offered by the owner by public tender for sale, or, at the option of the owner, for lease with right of purchase, in allotments as defined by the plan, the reserve price for each allotment being a sum determined by agreement between the Minister and the owner; and every such 25 sale or lease shall be offered upon the terms and subject to the conditions hereinafter specified.

(3.) The agreement may contain such other provisions not inconsistent with this Part of this Act as the Minister and owner may agree upon.

44. (1) The terms and conditions upon which the owner shall offer the land as aforesaid shall be—

(a.) In the case of sale, the payment of a deposit not exceeding ten per centum of the price tendered, and an agreement by the purchaser to pay to the owner, or as the owner 35 directs, the balance of the purchase-money by annual instalments extending over a period of not less than ten nor more than twenty years, and an agreement by the purchaser to pay to the owner, or as the owner directs, interest upon all purchase-moneys for the time 40 being remaining unpaid at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum:

Provided that the purchaser may at any time pay the whole or any part of the balance of purchase-money then unpaid, together with interest thereon to the date of pay- 45 ment; and

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(b.) In the case of lease with right of purchase, that the term of lease shall be twenty-one years, that and the lessee shall have the right to purchase the allotment at any time during the term of the lease at the price named in the 50 tender, and that the rent shall not exceed five per centum of the amount of such price.

Terms and conditions upon wrich owner to offer land.

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(2.) The said terms and conditions shall in all other respects be such as may be agreed upon between the owner and the Land

Purchase Board with the approval of the Minister.

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unregistered.

45. No person whose tender for any allotment is accepted shall Restriction on 5 be permitted to acquire by purchase or lease any other allotment acquisition or of the same land, and no person whose tender for any allotment allotments after is accepted shall sell or transfer his interest in the allotment until at least one-quarter of the purchase-money has been paid by him to the owner.

subdivision.

10 46. No tender shall be accepted unless it is accompanied by a Tenders to be declaration as required in the case of an applicant for land under accepted if not less than reserve price Part III of the Land Act, 1908; but, except as aforesaid, the owner offered. shall not, without the consent of the Minister, decline any tender in which a sum equal to or exceeding the reserve price is offered.

15 47. It shall not be lawful for the owner after the execution of an Owner not to dispose agreement with the Minister under section forty-three hereof, to sell, of land after mortgage, or charge his estate or interest in the land, the subject consent of Minister. of the agreement, or in any part thereof, without the previous consent in writing of the Minister.

48. At any time after the execution of the agreement by the On execution of owner and by every party whose consent thereto is required by agreement Minister section forty-three hereof the Minister may pay the whole costs subdivision, &c. and charges of the survey of the land and of the laying-out, construction, and completion of such roads, bridges, and improvements as 25 are defined in the plan of the surveyor; and all moneys so expended by the Minister shall be repaid by the owner with interest at such rate, being not less than four per centum per annum, and within such time as is agreed upon between the Minister and the owner; and, until such repayment, shall be a first charge upon the land and 30 the proceeds of the sale thereof, and have priority over all other charges and incumbrances, whether registered against the land or

49. All moneys paid by the Minister under the provisions of Costs ravable out this Part of this Act shall be paid out of the Land for Settlements of Land for Settlements 35 Account without further appropriation than this Act, and all moneys Account. repaid by the owner pursuant to the last preceding section shall be paid into that account.

Agreements with Owners of Native Land.

50. (1.) In this section, if not inconsistent with the context, - Native freehold "Native freehold land" and "Native" have respectively the land may be sold meanings assigned to those terms in the Native Land this Part. Act, 1909:

"Land Settlement Officer" means and includes a Commissioner of Crown Lands, or such other officers of the Lands and Survey Department as the Minister appoints to be Land Settlement Officers for the purposes of this section:

"Agents" means persons appointed by Native owners to be agents under the provisions of this section, and where only one such person is so appointed means that person.

(2.) Notwithstanding anything in the Native Land Act, 1909, 50 the Native owner or owners of any Native freehold land may, either personally or by agents as hereinafter provided, enter into an agreement with the Minister for the sale or lease of such Native freehold land (or of any part thereof) in the manner prescribed in the preceding provisions of this Part of this Act, as if such Native freehold land were European land, save that the provisions of paragraph (e) of subsection two of section forty-three hereof shall be read as if the words "or by public auction" were inserted therein after the words "public tender."

(3.) In the case of an agreement for sale by public auction the provisions of sections forty-four and forty-five hereof shall be 10 read as if the word "bid" were inserted therein in lieu of the words "tendered" or "tender" wherever those words occur, and, as-if in that case, in lieu of the provisions of section forty-six hereof, it were is hereby enacted that every purchaser at public auction shall be required to lodge with the Land Settlement Officer a declaration as 15 required in the case of an applicant for land under Part III of the Land Act, 1908.

(4.) The Native owners of any Native freehold land may by writing under their hand appoint some person or persons not exceeding three in number to be the agents of all such owners for the 20

purposes of this section.

(5.) Where any such Native owner is a person under disability as defined by section one hundred and seventy-one of the Native Land Act, 1909, the Native Land Court may on behalf of such person, upon the application of the Minister, by order confirm an 25 appointment of agents made by the Native owners who are not

persons under disability.

(6.) The effect of such order shall be to constitute the agents to be the agents of the person under disability for all the purposes of this section, and the agents shall have the same powers in all respects 30 to enter into an agreement with the Minister on behalf of such person as if such person had not been under any disability, and all conveyances, transfers, leases, and other documents executed by the agents under this section shall be as valid and effectual as if the whole legal and beneficial estate and interest of such person in the 35 land were vested in the agents.

(7.) Where the Native owners of any Native freehold land exceed five in number, the appointment of agents for the purposes of this section may, if the Minister so directs, be made in nanner

following:—

40 (a.) The provisions of sections three hundred and thirty-eight to three hundred and fifty-one inclusive of Part XVIII of the Native Land Act, 1909 (relating to the powers of assembled Native owners) shall (except as hereinafter otherwise provided) be deemed to be incorporated in this 45 section.

(b.) The provisions of section three hundred and forty-six of the said Act Part XVIII shall not apply to proceedings under this section, but in lieu thereof it is hereby enacted that the assembled owners of any Native freehold and may pass in 50 the manner provided by the said Part XVIII, a resolution that such land shall be disposed of by sale or lease under

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this Part of this Act, and a further resolution appointing some person or persons (not exceeding three in number) to be the agents of those owners for the purposes of this section.

(c.) On the confirmation by the Board of any resolution under this section, a copy of that resolution and confirmation under the seal of the Board shall be transmitted by the President to the Minister, and shall be gazetted.

(d.) A copy of the Gazette containing any such resolution and confirmation shall be conclusive evidence of the determination of the owners that the land shall be disposed of under this Part of this Act and that the appointment of the agents named therein was duly made by all the Native owners of the land.

15 (8.) Agents appointed pursuant to this section shall have and may exercise during the term of their appointment, for the purposes of this Part of this Act, all the powers of the owners with respect to the land for the disposition of which they have been appointed agents; and, in particular, may execute in their own names on behalf of the owners, without any further consent or concurrence of the owners of such land, all such conveyances, transfers, leases, and other documents as are necessary for any of the purposes of this Part of this Act and for the disposition of land thereunder.

(9.) Notwithstanding anything in the preceding provisions of 25 this section, no Native freehold land to which this section relates shall be disposed of by sale or lease, except with the concurrence of a Land Settlement Officer, who shall be a party to every sale or lease of any part of such land, and shall join in the execution of every conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document in respect thereof.

(10.) Every conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document affecting land executed by the agents and by a Land Settlement Officer shall for all purposes effectually convey, transfer, demise, or otherwise affect the estate or interest in such land, according to the tenor of the instrument so executed.

35 (11.) The proceeds of all sales of land under this section shall be payable only to the Land Settlement Officer, and shall be paid by the Land Settlement Officer into an account to be entitled the Native Land Trust Account.

(12.) Such proceeds shall be applied: first, in repayment of 40 moneys advanced and expended by the Minister and interest thereon as provided by section forty-eight hereof; and next, in payment of all other charges and expenses incurred by the Minister and the agents and the Land Settlement Officer in relation to the land, and the balance of the capital proceeds shall be invested in such manner and 45 upon such trusts for all the Native owners of the land, and their successors, as may be prescribed by regulations:

Provided that where by the agreement between the agents and the Minister it is stipulated that a part, not exceeding one-third of the whole of such balance of the capital proceeds, shall be paid over 50 to the Native owners, such part may be so paid over in lieu of being nvested as aforesaid:

Provided further that in every case the prescribed trusts of the moneys invested shall be such as to permit only the payment to the Native owners and their successors of the income of the investments.

(13.) The rents of all land demised under this section shall be paid into the said Native Land Trust Account, and shall be paid thereout from time to time to the Native owners and their successors.

(14.) There shall be charged and paid out of the said Native Land Trust Account in respect of the management and investment of the capital moneys, and the collection and distribution of the income and rents, such allowances and charges as may be prescribed by regulations.

(15.) Every purchaser and lessee of land under this section 10 shall be deemed to be so far the purchaser or lessee of Native freehold land as that all the provisions of Part XII of the Native Land Act, 1909, relating to limitation of area, shall apply to the acquisition by such purchaser or lessee of the land purchased by or leased to him.

(16.) Save as is herein expressly provided the provisions of the 15 Native Land Act, 1909, shall not prohibit affect or apply to any appointment of agents, agreement with the Minister, or alienation (whatever be the number of the Native owners) or to any deed of conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document affecting any Native freehold land under the provisions of this section, and it shall not be Struck out.

necessary that any such document be confirmed or be executed as required by that Act.

New.

(16a.) It shall not be necessary that any appointment of agents, 25 lagreement with the Minister, alienation, conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document under the provisions of this section be confirmed or be executed as required by the Native Land Act, 1909.

Struck out.

(17.) The Governor in Council may from time to time make such 30 regulations as he deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to this section.

51. (1.) Where an agreement made by Native owners with the Minister may Minister under this Act provides for payment over to the Native advance to Native owners of a part of the balance of the capital proceeds of the land as for Settlements 35 provided by subsection twelve of the last preceding section, the Account proportion of estimated Minister, upon the execution of such agreement,—

(a.) May advance and pay out of the Land for Settlements Account, without further appropriation than this Act, to the Native owners, or (if the agreement so provides) to agents appointed by them under the provisions of the last preceding section, any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole the part of the balance of capital proceeds of sale which is provisionally estimated to be ultimately payable directly to the owners; and

(b.) Shall cause an estimate to be made by an officer of the Department of Lands of the probable balance of the capital proceeds as defined in subsection twelve of the last preceding section, and the proportion of the amount so estimated which would pursuant to the agreement be payable to the owners shall be deemed to be the amount provisionally estimated for the purposes of the last preceding paragraph.

owners out of Land proceeds of sale.

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(2.) All moneys so advanced and paid to the owners pursuant to such provisional estimate shall be refunded to the Land for Settlements Account out of the proceeds of sale of the land, with interest

thereon at the rate of four per centum per annum.

52. An appointment of agents by Native owners under section Remuneration of fifty hereof may contain provisions for the remuneration of the agents of Native agents, and such provisions shall, if approved by the Minister, be part of such appointment and be binding upon the Native owners, anything in the Native Land Act, 1909, or any other Act to the 10 contrary notwithstanding, and the amount of such remuneration shall be deemed to be a charge and expense incurred by the agents within the meaning of subsection twelve of section fifty hereof.

53. If any agent appointed by Native owners under section Provision on death, fifty hereof dies, or declines or becomes incapable to act, &c., of agent. 15 any other agent or agents who has or have been appointed by the same Native owners to act as agents together with the agent who so dies, or declines or becomes incapable to act, may act alone on behalf of all the Native owners, and shall have the same powers and authorities for all purposes as all the agents originally

20 appointed would have had if all acted together.

54. Every agreement made by agents appointed by Native Enforcement of owners under section fifty hereof, whether such agreement is with the Minister or with any purchaser or lessee of lands, may be enforced by action or other proceedings in the Supreme Court of 25 New Zealand against the agents in their own names, sued as representing all the Native owners, and if in any such action or proceeding any decree is made for the execution of any conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document, the said Court may direct that such conveyance, transfer, lease, or other document shall be 30 executed either by the agents or by a Land Settlement Officer, and that the same shall, when so executed, be as valid and effectual for all purposes as if executed by all the Native owners.

New. Regulations.

X.

54A. The Governor may, by Order in Council, make such Governor may make regulations as he considers necessary for carrying into effect the regulations. provisions of this Part of this Act.

PART IV.

55. This Part of this Act shall form part of and be read Principal Act 40 together with the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, which Act is in defined. this Part referred to as the principal Act.

56. Notwithstanding anything in section forty-five of the Capital value may principal Act the Minister may, on the recommendation of the Land be reduced in Board, reduce the capital value of any allotment to such amount as 45 he thinks fit in any case where the allotment remains unselected for a period of more than one year after the date when it became available for selection.

certain cases.

Settlement land may be sold in fee-simple. 57. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act, any settlement land acquired after the passing of this Act, or any settlement land heretofore acquired but not selected under that Act, may, if the Minister so determines, be disposed of by way of sale in fee-simple.

(2.) The provisions of section fifty one of the principal Act and section eleven of the Land for Settlements Administration Act, 1909, shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to all settlement lands so disposed of.

(3.) The price to be paid by the purchaser shall be the capital value fixed by the Minister in accordance with section forty-five of 10 the principal Act.

New.

Section 51 of principal Act amended.
Owners of renewable leases may acquire freehold.

57a. Section fifty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection two the word "adjoining."

58. (I.) In this section, if not inconsistent with the context,— 15 "Notice" means a notice in writing, signed by a lessee of settlement land held under renewable lease, of the lessee's intention to purchase the fee-simple of the land:

"Original capital value" means the amount upon which the rent at the rate of four and a half per centum per annum 20 was computed for the existing term of a renewable lease:

"Price" means the price at which settlement land held under renewable lease may be purchased, ascertained in the manner provided by this section.

(2.) Subject to the provisions of the next succeeding section, the 25 owner of a renewable lease of settlement land (whether made before or after the commencement of this Act) may at any time during the currency of the lease acquire the fee-simple of the land comprised in his lease upon the terms and subject to the conditions defined, and at a price ascertained and determined in the manner provided by this 30 section.

(3.) All the provisions of Part II of this Act (except sections thirty, thirty-one, subsection one of section thirty-two, and section thirty-three thereof) shall be deemed to be incorporated in, and shall apply to the right of purchase conferred by this section.

(4.) The price shall be computed as follows:—

(a.) The Valuer-General shall cause a new valuation to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act, 1908, of the capital value of the land comprised in the lease as at the date of the notice.

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(b.) From the capital value ascertained by such new valuation there shall be deducted the value (to be ascertained by valuation) of any improvements effected by the lessee and of any other improvements to which the lessee is entitled by reason of their being effected after the grant of the 45 first lease of the land, whether such first lease was a lease in perpetuity or a renewable lease. The resulting sum is hereinafter referred to as "the present capital value."

(c.) In no case shall the present capital value be less than the original capital value.

(d.) The amount by which the present capital value exceeds the original capital value being ascertained, an actuarial computation shall be made of the present value of such excess if payable at the expiration of the existing term of the lease. The rate of interest for the purpose of such computation shall be five per centum per annum payable half-yearly. The amount ascertained by such actuarial computation shall be added to the original capital value and the result shall be the price.

59. (1.) It shall not be lawful for any person to become the Limitation of area. purchaser in fee-simple of any area of settlement land if such land, together with all other land of any description owned, held, or occupied by him under any tenure, whether in severalty or jointly with any person, exceeds a total area of three thousand acres. 15 calculated in the manner provided by section ninety-seven of the Land Act, 1908.

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(2.) It shall not be lawful for any person who holds any estate One allotment only or interest in any allotment of land, which is or was at any time to be held by one settlement land, to acquire any estate or interest in any other allot-20 ment which is or was at any time settlement land:

Provided that nothing in this section shall restrict the operation of subsection two of section fifty-one of the principal Act.

(3.) The provisions of sections three hundred and forty-two to three hundred and forty-seven of the Land Act, 1908, shall, mutatis 25 mutandis, apply to the several limitations and prohibitions contained in this section, the words "this section" being read for the words "this Part of this Act," wherever they occur in the said sections.

(4.) Every document of title issued by the District Land Registrar for land affected by this section shall contain a notification 30 that the land is subject to the restriction contained in this section.

60. (1.) Allotments of settlement land situated within a town- Settlement land not ship which remain unselected for a period of more than one year selected within a township. from the date when they became available for selection may be leased for grazing purposes for any period not exceeding five years to 85 any applicant who makes the declaration prescribed for applicants for Crown land, whether or not such applicant already holds another allotment under the principal Act or any Act repealed thereby.

(2.) Such lease may be determined at any time by three months' written notice of intention to do so being given by the Commissioner **40** to the lessee.

(3.) The lessee shall not be entitled to compensation for any improvements he may effect upon the allotment, but he may remove any such improvements prior to the expiry of his lease, whether by determination or effluxion of time.

61. (1.) The provisions of section sixty-three of the Land Act, Deposits by 1908, relating to the deposit payable by a successful applicant for a successful applicant for a successful applicants for a applicants for renewable lease of surveyed land and the provisions of section sixty- settlement land. five of that Act relating to the application of such deposit shall apply to successful applicants for settlement land; save that the deposit 50 shall be at the rate of two and a quarter per centum instead of two per centum.

(2.) Paragraphs (q), (r), and (s), of subsection one of section fifty- Repeal. one of the principal Act are hereby repealed.

Schedule

or switched to It.

SCHEDULE.

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS OF THE LAND ACT, 1908.

Number of Section affected.	Nature of Amendment.
Section—41—(5)	By inserting, after the words "Crown lands," the words "or national endowment land."
Section 48	By omitting all the words of paragraph (c) after the words "may be," and substituting the words "called by the Commissioner either on his own initiative, or pursuant to resolution of the Board, or on the request in writing of any three members of the Board."
Section 62 (7) Section 63	By omitting the words "or pastoral." By adding the following new subsection:— "(4.) The rent for the period elapsing between the date of the lease and the due date of the first half-yearly payment shall be payable at the option of the Board either with such first half-yearly payment or at the due date of the next succeeding half-yearly payment."
Section 82	By omitting the words "and renewals or transfers thereof," and substituting the words "or other instruments relating to the occupation of land (including renewals and transfers of leases and licenses)"; by omitting the words "leases and licenses and renewals or transfers of leases and licenses under this Act," and substituting the words "such instruments"; by inserting, after the words "twenty-one shillings" in paragraph (d), the words "such fee to include the cost of the registration of the instrument in respect of which it was paid"; and by omitting all the words of that paragraph after the words "ten shillings."
Section 125	By omitting the words "two shillings and sixpence" in paragraph (c), and substituting the words "five shillings."
Section 130	By omitting the words "from year to year" and substituting the words "for any term not exceeding five years."
Section 155 (3)	By omitting all words after the words "first-class land," and substituting the words "ten shillings per acre for second-class land, and five shillings per acre for third-class land."
Section 166 (1)	By adding the words "and five shillings per acre on third-class lands."
Section 179 (2)	By omitting all the words after the words "Crown lands" down to and including the words "similar purport."
Section 192 (3)	By inserting, after the word "improvements," the words "effected or purchased by the lessee."
Section 244 (5)	By omitting the words "this subsection," and substituting the words "subsection three of this section."
Section 267 (2)	By adding the words "and shall be applied in the purchase of other lands which shall form part of the national endowment."
Section 332	By omitting the words "which has been leased prior to the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two (being the date of the coming into operation of 'The Land Act, 1892')," and substituting the words "whether granted before or after the passing of this Act."