

Mr. Wi Pere.

NATIVE LAND.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	3. Appointment of Maori Judges.
Preamble.	4. Appointment of European Assessor.
1. Short Title.	5. Assessor jointly responsible with Judge.
2. Interpretation.	6. "The Disqualification Act, 1878," and amendments thereof not to apply.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make further Provision for the Original Investigation of Title to Native Land. Title.

5 WHEREAS the aboriginal natives of the colony have by petition to Parliament and otherwise from time to time since the passing of "The Native Land Act, 1862," to the present date demanded the right to deal with questions of ownership affecting their lands: And whereas through the progress of civilisation the objections hitherto urged against such demand have to a considerable extent 10 disappeared, and it is therefore expedient as a matter of justice to grant a proportionate measure of relief in the direction demanded:

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

15 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Native Land Act, 1896." Short Title.

2. Unless inconsistent with the context, the words used in this Act shall have the same meaning as is assigned to them in section two of "The Native Land Act, 1894." Interpretation.

20 3. The Governor may appoint any Native to be a Judge of the Court, with powers limited to the original investigation of title to Native lands, and appeals in relation thereto: Provided that no European Judge shall hear an appeal against the decision of a Maori Judge, and vice versa. Appointment of Maori Judges.

25 4. The Governor may also appoint any European to be an Assessor of the Court to sit only with Judges appointed under the provisions of the foregoing section. Appointment of European Assessor.

30 5. No decision given by any Judge appointed as aforesaid shall have any effect unless assented to by the Assessor, and every order made by such Judge shall be signed by the Assessor, who shall be jointly responsible with the Judge for the correctness of the same. Assessor jointly responsible with Judge.

6. The provisions of "The Disqualification Act, 1878," and any Acts amending the same, shall not apply to Judges appointed under the provisions of this Act. "The Disqualification Act, 1878," and amendments thereof not to apply.