

Hon. Mr. Duncan.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	11. Inspector may do work at occupier's expense and recover cost.
1. Short Title.	12. Proportion of cost of clearing to be borne by owner.
2. Interpretation.	13. As to Native lands not individualised.
3. Plants in Second Schedule to be noxious weeds only in districts of such local authorities as so declare.	14. Cost of clearing a charge against Native land.
4. Procedure thereon.	15. Clearing of public reserves and Crown lands.
5. Governor may extend Second and Third Schedules.	16. Local authority to clear lands under its control.
6. No person to sow or sell noxious seeds or undressed seeds or grain. Proviso. Burden of proof.	17. Hindering or obstructing an Inspector.
7. Threshing-machines, &c., to be thoroughly cleansed.	18. Penalties for infringing Act.
8. Work required in trimming hedges and clearing weeds. Permission to grow gorse.	19. Inspector to commence proceedings.
9. Inspector may enter upon land to ascertain if weeds exist.	20. Penalties recovered to be paid into Public Account.
10. Notice to be served on occupier of infected land.	21. Expenses of Act.
	22. Manner in which notices may be served.
	23. Inspectors and regulations. Schedules.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds, and to enforce the Trimming of Hedges. 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 is "The Noxious Weeds Act, 1900." Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.
"Clear," and all references thereto, mean cutting down and keeping cut down or grubbing or pulling up the stem or root of any noxious weed so as to prevent any part thereof flowering:

"Inspector" means any Inspector appointed under this Act:
"Local authority" means a City or Borough Council within the limits of its city or borough, a Town Board within the limits of its town district, a Road Board within the limits of its road district, a County Council within the limits of all parts of its county not comprised in a town district or a road district, and the Minister within the limits of any county where "The Counties Act, 1886," is No. 69—1.

suspended or has never been in operation (such last-mentioned limits being, however, exclusive of town districts or road districts); and each such local authority shall for the purposes of this Act have jurisdiction within the aforesaid limits accordingly :

“ Minister ” means the Minister for Agriculture, and includes any other member of the Executive Council, being a responsible Minister of the Crown, who for the time being is acting for him :

“ Occupier ” means every person in occupation of land, and includes the owner of any land which is unoccupied or whereof the occupier is unknown or cannot be found :

“ Noxious weeds ” means the plants mentioned in the *First* Schedule hereto, and includes, but subject in every case to the provisions of section *three* hereof, the plants mentioned or included in the *Second* Schedule hereto :

“ Noxious seeds ” means the seeds or spores of the plants mentioned or included in the *Third* Schedule hereto.

Plants in Second Schedule to be noxious weeds only in districts of such local authorities as so declare.

Procedure thereon.

3. Any local authority may at any time declare that all or any one or more of the plants mentioned in the *Second* Schedule hereto are noxious weeds within its jurisdiction, whereupon all the plants to which the declaration relates shall be deemed to be noxious weeds within the jurisdiction of such local authority accordingly.

4. For the purposes of such declaration the following provisions shall apply :—

(1.) With respect to such portions of the colony as are within the jurisdiction of the Minister as the local authority thereof, such declaration shall be by notice by the Minister in the *Gazette*, and shall, according to the tenor of the notice, extend to all such portions of the colony or to any such one or more of them as are specified in the notice.

(2.) The Minister may gazette such notice from time to time with respect to different portions of the colony within his jurisdiction.

(3.) With respect to such portions of the colony as are within the jurisdiction of any local authority other than the Minister, such declaration shall be by special order, and shall in every case extend to all portions of the colony within the jurisdiction of the local authority making the special order.

Governor may extend Second and Third Schedules.

5. The Governor, by Order in Council gazetted, may from time to time—

(1.) Extend the *Second* Schedule hereto by including therein any plants other than those mentioned therein ; and

(2.) Extend the *Third* Schedule hereto by including therein any other plants than those mentioned therein.

No person to sow or sell noxious seeds or undressed seeds or grain.

6. (1.) Every person commits an offence who knowingly sows, sells, or offers for sale—

(a.) Any noxious seeds, except in the case of gorse-seed to be sown for forage or fodder by permission in writing of the local authority, or for the planting of hedges or live fences ; or

(b.) Any grass-seed, or other seed or grain, which has not been thoroughly dressed by means of a seed-cleaning machine or other sufficient process for the purpose of removing all noxious seeds:

5 Provided that, in any proceedings under paragraph (b) of this section against any person for knowingly selling or offering for sale any seed or grain which has not been dressed as aforesaid, it shall be a sufficient defence if he satisfies the Court that the person to whom he so sold or offered the same for sale knew the same had not
10 been dressed.

Proviso.

(2.) In all legal proceedings taken against any person for any breach of this section, knowledge on his part shall be presumed until the contrary is proved.

Burden of proof.

15 7. Every person owning or being in charge of any threshing-machine, clover-dresser, or chaff-cutter which is used on more farms than one commits an offence if he fails to thoroughly clean out such machine immediately after using at each farm, and before removing such machine or any part thereof to another farm.

Threshing-machines, &c., to be thoroughly cleansed.

20 8. Every occupier shall in every year commence and continuously thereafter shall do all things necessary in order to effectually carry out the following works on his land to the satisfaction of the Inspector:—

Work required in trimming hedges and clearing weeds.

(1.) In respect of hedges or live fences consisting of gorse, broom, or hakea,—

25 To trim or cut the same at the proper season of the year, and, where the hedge or fence abuts on a water-course or public road, to remove and destroy all refuse resulting from the work:

30 Provided that, where it can be shown that such trimming or cutting, if done at any specified period, would act injuriously on any particular hedge or fence, the Inspector in his discretion may extend the period within which the trimming or cutting may be done:

35 (2.) In respect of hedges or live fences consisting of sweetbriar or blackberry,—

To trim or cut the same at the proper season of the year, and remove and destroy all refuse resulting from the work:

40 (3.) In respect of gorse, broom, sweetbriar, or blackberry not forming portion of a hedge or live fence,—

(a.) Where such weeds are in small patches, to clear the same at the proper season of the year:

45 (b.) In all other cases, to clear the same at the proper season of the year along the entire length of every boundary-fence or boundary-line, and on each side of every internal fence, water-race, or watercourse to the extent of at least one quarter of a chain each year until the whole is cleared:

50 Provided that, where it can be shown that this provision would press unduly on any occupier, the Inspector in his discretion may reduce the width to be cleared in

Permission to grow
gorse.

any year, but so nevertheless that in no case shall the width to be cleared be less than *one-eighth* of a chain :

Provided further that the local authority may, by certificate in writing given to the occupier and notified to the Inspector, grant permission to any occupier to grow gorse for forage or fodder on any given area in its district if and so long as it is satisfied that the growing thereof will not become a nuisance to other occupiers within the district :

(4.) In respect of other noxious weeds,—
To clear the same at the proper season of the year. 10

Inspector may enter upon land to ascertain if weeds exist.

9. An Inspector may at all reasonable times enter upon any land, whether enclosed or not, for the purpose of ascertaining if the requirements of section *eight* hereof have been duly complied with by the occupier. 15

Notice to be served on occupier of infected land.

10. In any case where default is made by the occupier in complying with any of the requirements of section *eight* hereof, the Inspector may, by notice to the occupier in the form in the *Fourth* Schedule hereto, or to the like effect, specify the requirements as to which default has been made, and request him to comply with them by doing the necessary work within the period specified in the notice ; and it shall be the duty of the occupier so to do. 20

Inspector may do work at occupier's expense, and recover cost.

11. (1.) If the occupier fails or neglects to duly comply with such notice, the Inspector may enter upon the said land and do the work at the expense in all things of the occupier ; but nothing herein contained shall relieve the occupier from any penalty he may have incurred by reason of his default, failure, or neglect. 25

(2.) The amount of all such expenses shall be recoverable by the Inspector, or such other person as the Minister authorises in that behalf, from the occupier, with costs, by action in any Court of competent jurisdiction. 30

Proportion of cost of clearing to be borne by owner.

12. Subject to the provisions of his lease, the reasonable expenses incurred by an occupier under section *eight* or *eleven* hereof, including reasonable compensation for his own labour or superintendence, may by him be recovered as a debt from the owner to the extent following, that is to say,— 35

- (1.) One-fourth the total amount of such expenses where the unexpired term of the lease is not less than four years at the date when the expenses are incurred ;
- (2.) Where such unexpired term is then less than four years, such proportion of the aforesaid total amount as, in the absence of agreement between the parties, is fixed by a Stipendiary Magistrate on summons in that behalf, issued and proceeded upon in like manner as in the case of summary proceedings under "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1882." 40 45

As to Native lands not individualised.

13. In the case of Native land the title to which has not been individualised, the Minister shall cause the land to be cleared if the Native occupants fail or neglect so to do to the satisfaction of the Inspector, and the cost thereby incurred by the Minister shall be paid by the Minister of Native Affairs out of any moneys available for Native purposes. 50

14. (1.) The Minister of Native Affairs may register in the Native Land Court a memorandum under his hand, in the form in the *Fifth* Schedule hereto, setting forth the amount so paid. Cost of clearing a charge against Native land.

5 (2.) Such memorandum shall operate as a charge against the said land, and thereafter no alienation thereof, whether by way of sale, lease, mortgage, or otherwise, shall have any validity unless and until such charge is satisfied.

10 15. All lands being public reserves, not vested in any trustees or local authority, and all unoccupied Crown lands, shall from time to time be cleared by the Minister or under his authority. Clearing of public reserves and Crown lands.

16. Every local authority, other than the Minister, shall, out of its general revenues, from time to time clear all lands under its control, and if it fails or neglects so to do the Minister may cause the same to be done at its expense. Local authority to clear lands under its control.

15 17. (1.) Every person commits an offence who obstructs or hinders any Inspector, or any person duly employed or authorised, in the exercise of any power or function conferred on him by or under this Act. Hindering or obstructing an Inspector.

20 (2.) No proceedings for the recovery of any penalty in respect of any such offence shall be a bar to any action at law by any such Inspector or person in respect of any such act as aforesaid, but every such action may be commenced and proceeded with as if no such proceedings had been taken under this Act.

25 18. Every person who commits any offence against any of the provisions of this Act, or of the regulations thereunder, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than *ten* shillings nor more than *twenty* pounds. Penalties for infringing Act.

30 19. No proceedings for the recovery of any penalty under this Act shall be commenced except on the information or complaint of an Inspector, or of such other person as the Minister authorises in that behalf, and all such proceedings shall be heard and determined before a Stipendiary Magistrate alone. Inspector to commence proceedings.

35 20. All penalties recovered under this Act in respect of any offence shall be paid into the Public Account, and form part of the Consolidated Fund. Penalties recovered to be paid into Public Account.

21. All sums expended by the Minister or under his direction in the administration of this Act shall be payable out of moneys appropriated by Parliament. Expenses of Act.

40 22. Any notice under this Act may be served either by delivering the same personally to the person upon whom the same is to be served, or by leaving the same or posting the same addressed to him at his usual or last known place of abode in the colony, or by affixing the same in some conspicuous place on the land to which the notice relates. Manner in which notices may be served.

45 23. The Governor may from time to time, as he thinks fit,— Inspectors and regulations.
 (1.) Appoint Inspectors under this Act, and define their powers and functions; and also
 (2.) Make such regulations as he deems necessary in order to give full effect to the provisions of this Act.

Schedules.

SCHEDULES.

Section 2.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

BLACKBERRY (*Rubus fruticosus*).
 Canadian or Californian thistle (*Cnicus arvensis*).
 Sweetbriar (*Rosa rubiginosa*).

Section 2.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

BATHURST burr (*Xanthium spinosum*).
 Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).
 Giant burdock (*Arctium majus*).
 Gorse (*Ulex europæus*).
 Hakea (*Hakea acicularis*).
 Ragwort or ragweed (*Senecio Jacobæus*).

Section 2.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

BATHURST burr (*Xanthium spinosum*).
 Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).
 Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).
 Burdock (*Arctium*, any species).
 Burr clovers (*Medicago denticulata* and *M. maculata*).
 Clover dodder (*Cuscuta trifoliæ*).
 Dock (*Rumex*), any species.
 Ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*).
 Fat-hen or white goosefoot (*Chenopodium album*).
 Gorse (*Ulex europæus*).
 Ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*).
 Sweetbriar (*Rosa rubiginosa*).
 Thistles (any species of *Carlina*, *Carduus*, *Cnicus*, *Centaurea*, *Silybum*).
 Wild turnip (*Brassica campestris*).
 Ragwort or ragweed (*Senecio Jacobæus*).

Section 10.

FOURTH SCHEDULE.

Under "The Noxious Weeds Act, 1900."

To A. B. [*Address and occupation*].

TAKE notice that in respect of the land occupied by you, and hereunder described, default has been made in duly complying with the requirements of the said Act as mentioned below; and I hereby call upon you to commence the necessary work within days from the date of this notice, and thereafter to continue the same until the said requirements are effectively complied with.

Land.	Description of Weeds to be cleared, or of Cutting or Trimming or other Work to be done.

C. D.,
 Inspector.

Section 14.

FIFTH SCHEDULE.

Under "The Noxious Weeds Act, 1900."

MEMORANDUM OF CHARGE AGAINST NATIVE LAND.

THE under-mentioned Native land stands charged with £ , being the amount refunded to [*Local authority*] on the day of , 19 , in respect of the cost of clearing noxious weeds on the said land.

Dated this day of , 19 .
 [*Describe land.*]