

Hon. Mr. Rolleston.

RESUMPTION OF LAND FOR MINING PURPOSES.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	14. If land to be resumed notice to be given to licensee, &c.
1. Short Title.	15. Compensation to be assessed under Part III. of "The Public Works Act, 1882."
2. Interpretation.	16. Regard to be had to certain additional elements of value.
3. Lands alienated or leased, &c., by the Crown after 29th September, 1873, may be resumed for mining purposes.	17. Compensation to be paid from gold fields revenue of the district, unless two or more counties, &c., interested, when Minister shall determine.
4. Application may be made to the Minister of Mines for the resumption of land under Act.	18. Applicant may deposit money to pay compensation.
5. Application for lands used as gardens, &c., not to be entertained unless under special circumstances.	19. No subsequent application to be made within twelve months unless under special circumstances.
6. Application may be referred to Warden.	20. Arrears of fees, &c., to be deducted from amount paid.
7. Proceedings upon reference of application.	21. Notice of resumption to be gazetted. Effect of notice. Procedure in Land Registry.
8. Warden to give notice of his intention to hear application. Applicants to appear before him on day of hearing.	22. Names of applicants to be published in notice. Priority.
9. Proofs to be adduced by applicant in absence of licensee, lessee, or owner.	23. Repeal of Act of 1873. Schedule.
10. Warden may call in assistance of experts and skilled witnesses.	
11. Warden to report to Minister.	
12. Minister to determine whether land shall be resumed or not.	
13. Costs of the inquiry to be paid by applicant.	

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Resumption of Land for the Purposes of Mining for Gold or Silver. 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 Resumption of Land for Mining Purposes Act, 1882." Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.

10 "Minister" means the Minister of Mines for the time being, and includes any other member of the Executive Council acting for such Minister:

15 "Mining purposes," in addition to the meaning attached to such expression by any Act in force relating to mining, means and includes the right to resume land under this Act which may be upon the margin of any stream or water, and any land which may be required for or intended to be used as a site for a tail-race, water-race, dam, reservoir, sludge-channel, machine site, or for any other purpose connected with mining for gold or silver:

20 "District" means and includes a gold-mining district constituted under "The Gold-Mining Districts Act, 1873," and a mining district constituted under "The Mines Act 1877":

“Warden” means a Warden appointed under either of the said last-mentioned Acts.

Lands alienated or leased, &c., by the Crown after 29th September, 1873, may be resumed for mining purposes.

3. All lands which since the *twenty-ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three*, have been or may hereafter be alienated or agreed to be alienated from the Crown, whether by way of absolute sale or lease or for any lesser interest, shall be liable to be resumed for mining purposes (except lands alienated expressly for mining purposes) by Her Majesty, on paying full compensation to the licensee, lessee, or owner of the fee-simple thereof for the value, other than auriferous or argentiferous, of the lands and improvements so resumed, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter provided. 5 10

Application may be made to the Minister of Mines for the resumption of land under Act.

4. Any person may, in the form in the Schedule, apply to the Minister for the resumption under the provisions of this Act of any land alienated from the Crown, and not hereinafter excepted from such application; and shall send with every such application the sum of fifty pounds, to be dealt with as hereinafter provided. 15

Application for lands used as gardens, &c., not to be entertained unless under special circumstances.

5. No application shall be entertained for any land used as a garden, orchard, vineyard, nursery, plantation, or ornamental pleasure-grounds, or for any land of less extent in area than a quarter of an acre within any city, town, or borough, or for any land which is the site or is within one hundred feet of the site of any house, manufactory, hospital, asylum, church, public building, or any cemetery, dam, reservoir, or waterworks, unless the consent in writing of the person in whom the legal estate in such land is vested accompanies such application. 20 25

Application may be referred to Warden.

6. The Minister may refer any such application to any Warden having jurisdiction within the district in which such land is situated, and shall inform the applicant thereof.

Proceedings upon reference of application.

7. Upon such reference the applicant may obtain from the Warden a summons to the licensee, lessee, or owner in fee of the land to which the application refers, to appear before him on a day and at a place therein specified, to show cause why such land shall not be resumed. 30

Warden to give notice of his intention to hear application.

8. The Warden shall give notice, in some newspaper circulating in the district, that on some day not less than fourteen days from the date thereof he will proceed to hear such application; and every applicant, if there be more than one, shall on the day appointed appear before the Warden, and, in default of such appearance or of sufficient excuse for such default, the application shall be dismissed as against such applicant. 35 40

Applicants to appear before him on day of hearing.

Proofs to be adduced by applicant in absence of licensee, lessee, or owner.

9. Upon the hearing of the summons the applicant shall, unless the parties summoned appear, prove the service thereof, and shall also prove that the land is auriferous or argentiferous, and may be mined with a reasonable profit; and shall also produce evidence as to the market value of the land and the improvements thereon at the date of the issue of the summons. 45

Warden may call in assistance of experts and skilled witnesses.

10. The Warden, whether all the parties be present or not, shall hear, receive, and examine evidence, whether it be tendered to him or called for by him, and may obtain the assistance of engineers, surveyors, valuers, or other scientific persons, the expense whereof shall be deemed to be part of the costs of the hearing, and may adjourn the hearing from time to time as he thinks fit. 50

672

11. The Warden shall report to the Minister the evidence he has received and his opinion thereon, and the amount of costs (if any) which the applicant ought to pay.

Warden to report to Minister.

12. Upon the report of the Warden, the Minister shall determine whether the land in whole or in part shall or shall not be resumed.

Minister to determine whether land shall be resumed or not.

13. The costs of the inquiry, including all costs of the licensee, lessee, or owner in fee, shall be paid out of the sum deposited by the applicant, or, if there be more than one applicant, in equal proportions, unless the Minister otherwise order, by the several applicants, and the balance (if any) shall be returned to the depositor or depositors.

Costs of the inquiry to be paid by applicant.

14. If the sum deposited by the applicant as aforesaid shall not be sufficient to pay such costs or any part thereof, the Warden may order the applicant to pay such excess; and such order may be enforced by any person entitled to receive such costs against the applicant in like manner as a judgment of the Warden's Court in its ordinary jurisdiction.

15. If it be determined that the land in whole or in part be resumed, the Minister shall cause notices to be sent to the licensee, lessee, or owner, and shall agree with him as to the value, other than auriferous or argentiferous, of such land and improvements at the date of the issue of the summons as aforesaid.

If land to be resumed notice to be given to licensee, &c.

16. In case no such agreement, as aforesaid, shall be made, such value shall be assessed and determined in the manner provided in Part III. of "The Public Works Act, 1882," which shall be deemed to be incorporated with this Act, and all the provisions of the said Part, so far as applicable, shall be extended to and may be used in the several cases herein provided for; and the Minister shall be the respondent in the place of the Minister for Public Works, as provided by "The Public Works Act, 1882."

Compensation to be assessed under Part III. of "The Public Works Act, 1882."

17. In determining compensation to be paid under this Act, and in addition to any other provision of "The Public Works Act, 1882," regard shall be had to the probable development of mining industry in so far as the same may affect other lands (if any) of such owner, lessee, or licensee, not resumed under this Act, and to the increased value of such last-mentioned lands to him, either in consequence of such development or by the construction or intended construction of public works on or near to the land so resumed, and such increase in value shall be taken into account in assessing compensation under this Act.

Regard to be had to certain additional elements of value.

18. Compensation payable under this Act shall be paid by the Colonial Treasurer out of the gold fields revenue of the district, or other revenue derived from such district in respect of mining, within which the land is situate; and, if such district shall embrace two or more counties or boroughs entitled to such revenue, then the compensation shall be deducted from the said revenue in such proportion as the Minister thinks just.

Compensation to be paid from gold fields revenue of the district, unless two or more counties, &c., interested, when Minister shall determine.

19. The applicant may, with his application or at any time thereafter, pay into the Public Account at any place where payments are made to such account such a sum or sums as the applicant deems sufficient to purchase the estate and interest in any land intended to be resumed under this Act, and such moneys shall be applied as hereinafter provided.

Applicant may deposit money to pay compensation.

When moneys have been supplied by the applicant as aforesaid then compensation agreed or awarded to be paid under this Act shall be paid by the Colonial Treasurer out of such moneys, and the balance, if any, shall be returned to the applicant.

No subsequent application to be made within twelve months unless under special circumstances.

Arrears of fees, &c., to be deducted from amount paid.

Notice of resumption to be gazetted.

Effect of notice.

Procedure in Land Registry.

Names of applicants to be published in notice. Priority.

Repeal of Act of 1873.

Schedule.

19. If it be determined that the land in whole or in part be not resumed, no further application in respect to the same land shall, unless by the special direction of the Minister, be entertained within twelve months from the date of the refusal of the application.

20. Where any land shall be resumed before the same has been actually granted in fee, the amount of all unpaid license fees, rents, or purchase-money, which, if the land had not been resumed before such grant, would have been payable to the Crown before the issue thereof, shall be deducted from the sum agreed upon or awarded as such compensation as aforesaid.

21. Upon payment of the compensation assessed the Governor in Council may, by a notice in the Gazette, declare that the land in such application described has been resumed for mining purposes by Her Majesty; and thereupon the whole estate and interest of the licensee, lessee, or owner, and of every person claiming through or under him, shall cease and determine, and the land shall be deemed to be Crown land, as if the same had never been alienated.

Upon production to the District Land Registrar of the district where such land is situated of such Gazette, accompanied by a statutory declaration by some competent person to the effect that the particulars stated in such notice are correct, the Registrar shall cause such land to be registered in the name of Her Majesty, and such Registrar shall make in his register the proper entries accordingly.

22. The names of the successful applicants, in the order of their application, shall be published in the notice of resumption, and such order shall determine their priorities inter se; and until thirty days after the date of such application no act of any person other than such applicants, or some person by them authorized in that behalf, done upon or in relation to such land, shall be of any force or effect in creating or intimating any right or title, or determining the priority of any application for permission to mine in or upon the said land or any part thereof, or to occupy the same or any part thereof, for any purpose in relation to mining.

23. "The Resumption of Land for Mining Purposes Act, 1873," is hereby repealed; and whenever in any unrepealed Act of the General Assembly, or in any Ordinance of a Provincial Council now in force, reference is made to the Act hereby repealed, such reference shall be deemed to be made to this Act instead of to such repealed Act.

SCHEDULE.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR RESUMPTION OF LAND FOR MINING PURPOSES, UNDER SECTION 3.

I, _____, of _____, assert that the land [Describe the allotment] was alienated since the Act intituled "The Resumption of Land for Mining Purposes Act, 1882," came into operation, by license [or lease] [or grant in fee]; that the said land contains gold or silver, and may be mined with reasonable profit; and that I believe its present value to be £ _____ or thereabouts.

I hereby apply that the said land shall be resumed for mining purposes; and I send herewith the sum of £20, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, and for the purpose therein mentioned.