

(Hon. Mr. Vogel.)

Search for Minerals Act.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to afford Facilities for the Search for Coal and other Minerals in land situated below high watermark. 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 shall be "The Search for Minerals Short Title.
5 Facilities Act, 1873."
2. In the interpretation of this Act, the following words and Interpretation.
expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them, unless from the context it shall appear that some other meaning was intended, that is to say:—
- 10 "Superintendent" shall mean the Superintendent of the Province within which any lands affected by this Act are situated.
- "Land" shall mean land lying below high watermark and abutting on waste lands of the Crown granted or contracted to be granted to any person.
- 15 "Minerals" shall mean and include coal, and such other minerals as the Superintendent may from time to time determine.
- "Person" shall include a corporate body.
- 20 3. In order to afford facilities for the search for minerals in land lying below high watermark, it shall be lawful for the Superintendent from time to time to make an agreement with any person authorizing such person to search for minerals in any such land as aforesaid, upon the following terms and conditions:—
- Agreement may be made allowing search for minerals in land below high watermark.

Any such agreement shall define the area of land to be included therein, and may be made to endure for any period not exceeding years; and subject to the stipulations to be therein contained, and to this Act, such agreement may authorize the person with whom the same is made to dig and search for minerals, and to erect and maintain all necessary works for that purpose, upon such terms and stipulations as the Superintendent shall think fit; but every such agreement shall contain a provision to the effect that, in case of abandonment of the land or in case of forfeiture of any rights conferred by such agreement, the possession of such land shall be resumed by the Superintendent, and the surface thereof shall be restored to its original condition by or at the expense of the person with whom the agreement shall have been made.

Any such agreement may contain a provision that a lease of the land included therein shall be granted for a term of years not exceeding years, at such rent and upon and subject to such terms and conditions as the Superintendent shall think fit; but the Governor shall be a party to and join in and execute any such lease.

4. For the purposes of being a party to and joining in and executing any such lease as aforesaid, the Governor and his successors shall be and be deemed to be a corporation sole, and in any such lease as aforesaid he may insert such further or other stipulation as he shall think necessary.

5. In order to give effect to the provisions hereinbefore contained, it shall be lawful for the Superintendent, subject to this Act, in the manner provided by "The Public Reserves Act, 1854," to enter into and execute any such lease as aforesaid; but nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize a lease of any land which, under the provisions of the said Act or of any other Act or Ordinance, may have been set apart or reserved for any specific purpose, or may be by any such Act or Ordinance authorized to be dealt with for any such purpose.

Governor a corporation sole for purposes of this Act.

Leases may be granted by Superintendent, but not to interfere with reserves set apart under "The Public Reserves Act, 1854," for specific purposes.