

Hon. Mr. Seddon.

UREWERA DISTRICT NATIVE RESERVES.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Provision as to the Ownership and Local Government of the Native Lands in the Urewera District. Title.

WHEREAS it is desirable in the interests of the Native race that Preamble.
5 the Urewera District should be declared to be a Native reserve, and to be absolutely inalienable otherwise than by cession to Her Majesty, subject to the regulations to be made by the Governor in Council under this Act: And whereas it is also desirable that the Native ownership of the said district should be ascertained in such a
10 manner, not inconsistent with Native customs and usages, as will meet the views of the Natives generally and the equities of each particular case:

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Urewera District Native Reserves Act, 1895." Short Title.

2. The said district is hereby declared to be a Native reserve, subject to the provisions of this Act, and the operation of "The Native Reserves Act, 1882," and "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," is hereby suspended therein. Acts suspended.
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3. The Governor may by Order in Council appoint seven Commissioners, two of whom, and not more, shall be Europeans, and the remainder Maoris, to define the boundaries and investigate the ownership of the said district, and to issue titles in respect thereof, in manner hereinafter provided. Governor in Council to appoint Commissioners to investigate ownership.
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Procedure of
Commissioners.

4. (1.) The ownership to any particular block within the said district may be investigated and determined on a sketch-plan approved by the Surveyor-General as approximately correct. The cost of any such sketch-plan shall be borne by the Surveyor-General.

(2.) The Commissioners shall, with due regard to Native customs and usages, investigate the ownership of each block, adopting as far as possible hapu boundaries, in such a manner as shall in their opinion enable them to arrive at a just and equitable decision in each case, and shall make an order in respect of each block in the prescribed form. 5 10

(3.) Each such order shall declare the land comprised therein to be absolutely inalienable, otherwise than by cession to Her Majesty for mining or other purposes, and shall also declare the relative shares of the owners, grouping family interests together.

(4.) The Commissioners shall have such powers as the Governor 15 in Council prescribes.

Members of same
family to be joint
tenants *inter se*.
Other owners to be
tenants in common.

5. The members of each family shall, as far as family interests are concerned, be deemed to be joint tenants amongst themselves, save in the case of a deceased member leaving issue not in the original order, in which case there shall be right of succession. All other 20 owners shall be tenants in common.

Committee to be
appointed.

6. (1.) From the owners of each block a local Committee of not less than seven members shall, in the first instance, be appointed by the Commissioners, and, subject to the provisions of this Act, shall be deemed to be sole owners of the block. Members of the Committee 25 may be removed from office by the Governor, and vacancies on the Committee shall be filled up in accordance with regulations under this Act.

(2.) Each local Committee shall elect one of its members to be a member of a General Committee to deal with all questions affecting 30 the reserve as a whole, and all decisions or undertakings by such General Committee shall be binding, and entitled to registration, as hereinafter provided.

(3.) The local Committee and the General Committee shall have such powers and functions as are prescribed by regulations under 35 this Act.

(4.) Every order made under the provision of section *three* of this Act shall be published in the *Kahiti* in Maori and English, and, if no appeal as hereinafter provided is lodged against the same within the period of twelve months from the date of such publication, the same 40 shall thereupon be confirmed by the Governor, and shall thereafter be deemed to be a certificate of title on which shall be recorded all appointments to and removals from Committees, and all such dealings, by death, succession, or otherwise, as from time to time are notified to the Native Minister. 45

Governor may
confer jurisdiction
on Native Land
Court.

7. Notwithstanding the provision of section *two* of this Act, the Governor by Order in Council may from time to time confer jurisdiction on the Native Land Court to determine succession claims or any other specific purpose in connection with orders made by the Commissioners. 50

Orders to be
registered.

8. Any orders made by the Native Land Court under the provisions of the *last-preceding* section shall, if necessary, be capable of and entitled to registration, as provided in regulations under this Act.

9. Any person feeling aggrieved by an order made under any of the foregoing provisions may appeal to the Native Minister, who shall direct such expert inquiry and report as he thinks fit, and upon which he may confirm, vary, or amend the original order.

Person aggrieved may appeal to Native Minister.

5 10. The Governor in Council may from time to time make such regulations as he thinks necessary for the purposes of this Act and for the purpose of giving effect to a certain memorandum from the Honourable Richard John Seddon, Premier of the Colony, addressed to the representatives of the Tuhoe people, bearing date the twenty-
10 fifth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

Governor in Council may make regulations.