

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the royalty may be paid after any auction sale takes place, on the condition that the broker gives an undertaking to the stamping officer that royalty will be paid within twenty-four hours after the sale takes place.

13. Every licensed broker shall keep a register in the form No. 5 in the First Schedule hereto, and shall on receipt of any opossum-skins enter therein the correct name, address, and occupation of each company, firm, or person from whom such skins are obtained for sale, indicating the locality where the opossums were taken and to whom such skins are sold. Such register shall be produced for inspection on demand by any constable, officer of an acclimatization society, ranger, or authorized officer.

14. Every licensed broker shall, immediately the sale of any opossum-skins takes place, forward to the secretary of the acclimatization society in whose district the opossums were taken a catalogue of such sale, giving the names of the sellers and buyers; and, immediately after the last day of each month, shall forward to the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, a certified copy of the entries made during the month in the register referred to in regulation 13, noting thereon the number of opossum-skins then in his possession.

15. Any person who retains opossum-skins for his own use, or for the purpose of preserving and manufacturing into rugs, coats, or other articles, shall pay a royalty of 1s. per skin as provided in the foregoing regulations, and such skins must have the royalty-paid stamp affixed by the authorized officer before such skins are tanned or prepared for tanning or other method of preservation.

16. Except as provided in these regulations, every owner of an opossum-skin not bearing the official mark shall pay to an authorized officer a royalty of one shilling (1s.) in respect thereof within one month from the date of these regulations or within one month from the date of the skin coming into his possession, whichever is the later. It shall be the duty of such authorized officer to have the said skin stamped with the appropriate official mark immediately such royalty is paid.

17. All opossum-skins in the possession of any person shall, on demand by any constable, officer of an acclimatization society, ranger, or authorized officer, be produced for inspection: and any person illegally in possession of skins is liable, on conviction, to a fine of £10, and to a further fine of £5 for each skin found in his possession, and such skins shall be forfeited to and become the property of the Crown.

18. No person shall at any time have possession of any opossum-skin which does not bear an official mark thereon; provided, however, that it shall not be a breach of this regulation to have possession of any such skin—

- (a.) Within one month from the date on which the same was taken, if the same is lawfully taken in any of the places mentioned in regulation 25; or
- (b.) At any time within one month from the close of the open season, if the same is lawfully taken during the open season in any other place in New Zealand; or
- (c.) At any time within one month from the date of importation if the same is imported;

and provided also that the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs, may extend such periods subject to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose.

19. It shall be an offence for any person to perforate or otherwise stamp or mark an opossum-skin in such a way as to suggest that the appropriate official mark has been affixed by an authorized officer, and the offence shall be punishable by a fine of £50 in addition to forfeiture of the skin or skins concerned, and such skins shall, either upon the conviction of such person or if such person cannot be traced, be forfeited to and become the property of the Crown.

20. All opossum-skins imported into the Dominion, other than those in a manufactured state, must be stamped by an authorized officer with the appropriate official mark as proof of importation; and every person importing skins must, within three days after the receipt of such skins, notify that officer. No royalty shall be payable in respect of any such skins:

Provided that no opossum-skins imported into the Dominion shall be disposed of for gain unless they are sold in the manner provided by regulation 7 and have been stamped with the appropriate official mark to indicate that royalty has been paid.

21. (1.) No person shall export or attempt to export opossum-skins without the consent in writing of the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs:

Provided that this shall not apply to skins made up as coats, rugs, muffs, or articles of personal or domestic or household use or ornament.

(2.) No person shall export or attempt to export opossum-skins unless they have been stamped with the appropriate official mark.

22. There shall be paid to the registered acclimatization societies in whose districts opossums were taken or killed

such proportion of the fees, fines, and royalties, as may be decided by the Governor-General in Council.

23. (1.) The Minister of Internal Affairs may, by writing under his hand, authorize any acclimatization society, or the officers or servants of any such society, or any other person, to catch or take opossums for the purpose of distributing or exchanging the same in some other country or in some other part of New Zealand, or for any scientific or other purpose approved by the Minister.

(2.) Any such authority may permit the holder thereof to enter upon a sanctuary or public domain for the purpose of catching or taking opossums as specified therein.

(3.) Every such authority shall be subject to such conditions as may be specified therein.

24. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in these regulations, it shall be lawful at any time and in any acclimatization district for the occupier of any orchard registered under the Orchard and Garden Diseases Act, 1908, or for any *bona fide* employee of such occupier, to kill by any means not involving unnecessary cruelty any opossums in such orchard, or on any land within half a mile of such orchard, or elsewhere within the areas defined in the Second Schedule hereto, or for the occupier of any land within half a mile of such orchard, or for any *bona fide* employee of such occupier, to similarly kill opossums in the area occupied by such occupier; provided that in any such case a return, in the form No. 6 in the First Schedule hereto, of the number of opossums so killed in any month shall, within seven days thereafter, be forwarded to the nearest Postmaster, who shall forward it to the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs; and provided further that the provisions of regulation 6 shall apply to any such occupier or his employee as if he were the holder of a license to take or kill opossums.

(2.) The skins of all opossums so killed may be disposed of only as provided by regulation 7 hereof. In any such case two copies of the prescribed notification or notifications relating thereto shall be sent to the broker, and the broker shall forward one copy with his returns under regulation 14. If the skins are required for personal use they shall be dealt with subject to regulation 15 hereof.

25. Subject to the provisions of regulation 24, opossums may be taken or killed at any time within the areas defined in the Second Schedule hereto, or in any registered orchard, or on any land within half a mile of such orchard; and it shall be unlawful to liberate or harbour opossums in any area defined in the Second Schedule hereto, or in any registered orchard, or on any land within half a mile of such orchard.

26. No person shall tan or otherwise preserve any opossum-skins unless the same bear the official mark; and every person carrying on the business of tanner or skin-preserver receiving opossum-skins not bearing such official mark shall forthwith after his receiving same forward the name and address of the person from whom the skins were received to the Under-Secretary, Department of Internal Affairs.

27. (1.) Every person holding a license to take or kill opossums shall, on demand by any authorized person, produce such license, and after such demand if such license is not produced, or if the person gives a false name or place of residence or address, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

(2.) For the purposes of this regulation an "authorized person" includes all Justices, constables, rangers, officers of the State Forest service, or officers of acclimatization societies, proprietors or occupiers of land upon which any person may be found in pursuit of opossums, and all holders of licenses to take or kill opossums.

28. Any person authorized to issue licenses hereunder may refuse to issue a license to any person who within two years prior to the date of his application for a license has been convicted of any breach of any of these regulations or of any former regulations respecting opossums made under Part III of the said Act or under the Animals Protection Amendment Act, 1920.

29. Where the holder of a license hereunder has been found guilty of a breach of any of these regulations the Court may, if it thinks fit, revoke his license.

30. The Minister of Internal Affairs, on being satisfied that injury or damage to any land has arisen or is likely to arise through the presence of opossums on such land, may in writing authorize the owner or occupier of such land, or his servants, to take or kill such animals thereon subject to such conditions and during such period not exceeding three months from the date thereof as may be specified in such warrant.

31. Except as provided in the said Act or in these regulations, no person shall take or kill opossums, or sell opossum-skins, or have opossums or opossum-skins in his possession:

Provided that the Minister of Internal Affairs may authorize the keeping of opossums in possession subject to such conditions as he thinks fit.