

Hon. Mr. Bryce.

Confiscated Lands Inquiry and Maori Prisoners' Trials.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>Preamble.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Governor may appoint Commissioners to inquire into Native grievances in connection with land on the West Coast, North Island.</p> <p>3. Commissioners' powers.</p>	<p>4. Remuneration to Commissioners.</p> <p>5. Commissioners' expenses to be appropriated by General Assembly.</p> <p>6. Date of trial of certain Maori prisoners.</p> <p>7. Governor may alter place of trial.</p> <p>8. Date of trial to be set forth in Order in Council.</p> <p>9. Duration of Act.</p>
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A BILL INTITLED

AN ACT to make provision for Inquiry into alleged Grievances of Aboriginal Natives in relation to certain Lands taken by the Crown under the authority of Law, and for enabling the Governor in Council to Postpone the Trials of certain Prisoners who have been committed for Trial for alleged Offences concerning such Lands. Title.

WHEREAS under the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly heretofore in force called "The New Zealand Settlements Act, 1863," and of the Acts amending the same, certain lands belonging to aboriginal Natives on the West Coast of the North Island have been taken: And whereas some of such lands have been sold and disposed of, and other part thereof remains in the possession of the Crown: And whereas it hath been alleged by or on behalf of some of the said Natives that promises have been made by or on behalf of the Government of the colony in relation to the lands so taken, and that such promises have not been fulfilled: And whereas the said Natives have been for some time past and now are in a state of discontent, and disturbances of the public peace and other offences have lately been committed by certain of such Natives: And whereas it is alleged that such discontent may be removed by inquiry being made into the said alleged promises and grievances, and it is expedient that a Commission should be appointed for such purpose: And whereas a large number of aboriginal natives have been duly committed for trial at the Supreme Court at Wellington and elsewhere in respect of such offences, and are now confined in prison: And whereas it is also indispensable for the peace and safety of the colony that the ordinary course of law should be suspended, and the trials of the said Natives should take place under special legislation:

2 *Confiscated Lands Inquiry and Maori Prisoners' Trials Bill.*

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

- Short Title. 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Confiscated Lands Inquiry and Maori Prisoners' Trials Act, 1879." 5
- Governor may appoint Commissioners to inquire into Native grievances in connection with land on the West Coast, North Island. 2. The Governor in Council may, by Commission under the Seal of the Colony, appoint three persons to be Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into all promises and engagements that have been made or are alleged to have been made by or on behalf of the Government of the colony to or with any person or persons in respect of the matters hereinbefore stated, or any of them, in so far as affects any lands or territory situated between the White Cliffs and the River Waitotara, on the West Coast of the North Island. 10
- Commissioners' powers. 3. Every such Commission shall confer all usual and necessary powers and authorities upon the Commissioners, or any two of them, and shall provide that such notices be given, and times and places appointed for inquiry, as may be necessary to give effect to this Act; and shall require a report to be made within *four* months after the date of the Commission, setting forth the opinion of such Commissioners in the premises. 15
- Remuneration to Commissioners. 4. The Commissioners shall be entitled to such reasonable remuneration for their services as the Governor may prescribe. Any member of the General Assembly accepting or receiving any sum of money by way of remuneration as aforesaid shall not be deemed to have committed a breach of "The Disqualification Act, 1878." 20
- Commissioners' expenses to be appropriated by General Assembly. 5. The expenses of the Commissioners, and all other expenses, 25 whether for travelling allowances, clerical assistance, witnesses' expenses, and all other expenses incurred in giving effect to the preceding provisions of this Act, shall be paid out of moneys appropriated for that purpose by the General Assembly.
- Date of trial of certain Maori prisoners. 6. In order that the peace of the colony may be preserved, the 30 Governor in Council may fix the date of trial of the said Natives so committed for trial as aforesaid, and may declare what number of them shall be tried at any one sitting of the said Supreme Court, and any such order may alter or vary as occasion shall require.
- Governor may alter place of trial. 7. If it shall be made to appear to the Governor in Council that, 35 for any reason, it is expedient that the place of trial of any of the said Natives shall be changed, then, notwithstanding any such committal as aforesaid, the Governor in Council may order that such Natives, or any of them, shall be tried in the Supreme Court at any other place in the colony where the Supreme Court sits. 40
- Date of trial to be set forth in Order in Council. 8. The date and place of trial shall be set forth in the Order in Council, and the Supreme Court at which any trial shall be ordered to take place under this Act, and every Judge of such Court, shall have the same powers, jurisdiction, and authority in respect of any such Native, or the trial to be had under this Act, as if originally such 45 Native had been committed for trial at the date and place named in the Order in Council.
- Duration of Act. 9. This Act shall remain in force until *thirty* days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament and no longer.