

Right Hon. Mr. Massey.

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915. Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Amendment Act, 1916, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act). Short Title.
- 10 2. References in the principal Act to the discharge from service of a member of an Expeditionary Force shall, in the case of an officer of any such Force, be deemed to be references to the termination of his appointment. References in principal Act to discharge to include references to the termination of the appointment of officers.
- 15 3. (1.) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister of Lands, dispose of any land under the principal Act to any person not being a discharged soldier within the meaning of that Act as if he were such a discharged soldier, if the Board is satisfied as to the following matters, namely:— Extension of provisions of principal Act to residents of New Zealand who have served with other Forces in the present war.
- 20 (a.) That the applicant for the land is, and was immediately prior to the commencement of the present war, a *bona fide* resident of New Zealand; and
- 25 (b.) That the applicant has served during the present war with some portion of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces (not being Forces raised in New Zealand), and that his appointment to such Forces has been terminated, or that he has received his discharge therefrom.

(2.) For the purposes of this section residence in New Zealand shall not be deemed to be affected by reason of temporary absence therefrom if the applicant satisfies the Board that during such absence he had a fixed intention of returning to New Zealand for the purpose of residing there.

Section 6 of principal Act (relating to financial assistance to discharged soldiers) extended.

4. The power conferred on the Board and the Minister by section six of the principal Act shall extend and apply so as to enable assistance under that section to be given to any discharged soldier who may be, or may hereafter become, the lessee or licensee of any Crown land, settlement land, or other land administered by a Land Board and acquired by the lessee or licensee otherwise than pursuant to section four of the principal Act.

Land may be taken under Public Works Act for purposes of principal Act.

5. (1.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, land required for the purposes of the principal Act may be taken under the Public Works Act, 1908, as for a public work within the meaning of that Act, and compensation therefor shall accordingly be computed and payable in the manner prescribed by that Act, and not in the manner prescribed by the Land for Settlements Act, 1908.

(2.) Nothing in this section shall authorize the taking of any land that could not be compulsorily taken pursuant to the provisions of the Land for Settlements Act, 1908 :

Provided that any land that could be taken under section sixteen of that Act as sites for workers' homes may be taken under this section for the general purposes of the principal Act. :

*New.*

Provided also that for the purposes of this section, but not otherwise, the Minister of Lands may, in the case of land situate more than five miles from any of the Cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, or Dunedin, reduce the prescribed maximum within the meaning of the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, to—

- (a.) One hundred acres of first-class land ; or
- (b.) Two hundred and fifty acres of second-class land ; or
- (c.) Six hundred and twenty-five acres of third-class land ; or
- (d.) Six hundred and twenty-five acres of two or more such classes of land, but without exceeding the limit of area fixed for each class.

In the case of land situate not more than five miles from any of the cities aforesaid the Minister may reduce the prescribed maximum to fifty acres of land.

(3.) All land so taken shall be deemed to be settlement land, and shall forthwith be set apart under section three or section four of the principal Act.

(4.) All moneys payable by the Crown as compensation or otherwise in respect of the land so taken shall be paid out of the Land for Settlements Account.

Authority to raise £500,000 for acquisition of land for purposes of principal Act.

6. (1.) In addition to the moneys authorized to be raised by section sixty-two of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1913, for the purpose of providing funds for the acquisition of land under the Land for Settlements Act, 1908, the Minister of Finance, on being authorized so to do by the Governor in Council, may from time to time raise, on the security of and charged upon the public revenues

of New Zealand, such sums of money as he thinks fit, not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of five hundred thousand pounds.

(2.) The sums so raised shall, as and when raised, be paid into the Land for Settlements Account, and shall bear interest at such rate, not exceeding five per centum per annum, as the Minister of Finance prescribes.

(3.) All moneys raised under this section shall be applied in payment of the purchase-money or compensation and other expenses incurred in connection with the acquisition of land for the purposes of the principal Act.

(4.) This Act shall be deemed to be an authorizing Act within the meaning of the New Zealand Loans Act, 1908, and the moneys hereby authorized to be raised shall be raised under and subject to the provisions of that Act accordingly.

*Struck out.*

7. (1.) The whole or any portion of the compensation payable in respect of land taken for the purposes of the principal Act may, at the option of the Minister of Finance, be paid in debentures issued by the Crown, and any person entitled to such compensation shall be obliged to accept such debentures in lieu of cash.

(2.) All debentures so issued shall bear interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, and the holders for the time being of any such debenture shall be exempt from income-tax in respect of the income derived therefrom.

(3.) All such debentures shall be charged upon the public revenues of New Zealand, and shall be issued under and subject to the provisions of the New Zealand Loans Act, 1908.

(4.) On the issue of debentures under this section the authority conferred by the *last preceding* section to borrow moneys shall be deemed to be reduced by the value of such debentures.

*New.*

8. Section eight of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "fifty thousand pounds," and substituting "one hundred thousand pounds."

Compensation for land acquired for purposes of principal Act may be paid in debentures.

Increased authority to raise money for purposes of principal Act.