

Hon. Mr. Thomson.

Land Act 1877 Amendment.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Land Act, 1877."

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 is "The Land Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1879," and it shall be read subject to the interpretations contained in the fourth section of "The Land Act, 1877," which is hereinafter called "the said Act."

Short Title.

AS TO LAND ON DEFERRED PAYMENTS.

2. All Proclamations, Orders, warrants, or other instruments made prior to the coming into operation of the said Act, by which respectively any land was opened for selection on deferred payments are hereby validated, and all lands declared open on deferred payments under any such instrument shall be deemed to have been declared open under the said Act.

Former Proclamations validated.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in the said Act, or in "The Crown Lands Sale Act, 1877," it is hereby declared as follows:—

(1.) The Governor may from time to time fix the upset price at which any allotments of rural or suburban land open for sale on deferred payment may be disposed of, being not

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Cultivation of forest lands.

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"Homestead" owners may not become selectors.

Payments to County Councils &c. to be extended over whole period of occupation.

Payments for pastoral lands to be treated as ordinary revenue.

less in any case than *thirty* shillings per acre for rural land, and *ninety* shillings per acre for suburban land, and may increase the upset price of any allotments which he may consider to be of special value.

- (2.) Where any land has heretofore been subdivided into sections less in area than the maximum allowed for occupation on deferred payments, the Governor may group two or more of such sections together to make up as approximately as may be the maximum area of an allotment: Provided always that in no case shall any section be subdivided, nor shall any such sections be so grouped into an allotment unless the same are immediately contiguous to one another, nor shall the maximum area of an allotment be augmented. 5
- (3.) In respect of land wholly covered with forest,— 15
 Subsection five of section sixty-three of the said Act shall not apply; and in subsection eight of the same section the words "substantial improvements" shall include "further clearing or cultivation."
- (4.) Where fencing, buildings, or other improvements have been made on land open on deferred payment, and the Governor shall decide to pay compensation for the same, the value thereof shall be assessed and declared at least one month before the time appointed for receiving applications for occupation of the land whereon such improvements have been made. 20
- The value so assessed shall be paid to the Receiver of Land Revenue by the selector of the land within one month of making his selection, and in default thereof he shall forfeit his license and the deposit paid on application. 30
- In case the person to whom any compensation as aforesaid is payable shall become the selector of any land in respect whereof such compensation is so payable, then neither the assessed value of the improvements shall be paid by the selector nor shall compensation be paid to the selector, in respect of so much of the land as is comprised within his selection. 35
- (5.) No person who at any time acquires or has acquired a freehold under the system of occupying land known as the "homestead" system, in force in the Land Districts of Auckland and Westland respectively, shall be allowed to become a selector under the said Act. 40
- (6.) In section fifty-nine of the said Act, the words following shall be omitted, that is to say,—
 "And the payments made by the selectors shall from time to time, until the amount of such one-third be reached, be paid over to such County Council or Road Board, as the case may be,"
 And the words following are hereby inserted in lieu thereof:— 50
 "And one-third of the payments made from time to time by the selectors shall, as the same arise respectively, be paid over to such County Council or Road Board, as the case may be."
- (7.) The provisions of section fifty-nine of the said Act shall not apply in respect of any pastoral lands sold on deferred payments, but the whole of the payments made from time to time in respect thereof shall be dealt with as ordinary land revenue. 55

LAND ON IMMEDIATE PAYMENT.

4. The Governor may at any time, by warrant under his hand, appoint the time at which any town, suburban, or rural lands shall be offered for sale, whether or not any such lands have at any time previously been offered for sale.

Governor may appoint time of sale of lands.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall annul any of the provisions of the forty-fourth section of the said Act.

IMPROVEMENTS ON RUNS.

5. From and after the commencement of this Act, the provisions of the one hundred and thirteenth section of the said Act, empowering holders of depasturing licenses from the Crown, within the Provincial District of Canterbury, to remove improvements made by them in certain cases, shall apply to all holders of such licenses in any part of the colony.

Fencing and other improvements may be removed on termination of lease.

PREPAYMENT OF RENT OF RUNS.

6. Sections one hundred and twenty-two and one hundred and twenty-three of the said Act are hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof it is enacted as follows :—

(1.) Every license of a run purchased at auction as aforesaid shall, if the run is held under license at the time of sale, bear date on the next first day of March following the determination of such license, and in respect of lands not held under license shall bear date on the next first day of March following the date of such auction.

Date of license.

(2.) The person who shall pay the highest sum by way of annual rent for any run sold at auction shall be entitled to receive a license to occupy the same for pastoral purposes, provided he shall pay the amounts hereinafter mentioned in advance at the time of such auction; and in default of such payment the run shall be forthwith again put up to auction.

Rent of runs to be paid in advance on sales by auction.

(3.) The amount to be paid in advance at the time of auction by the purchaser of the license of any run shall be—

Proportion of rent to be paid in advance.

(a.) If the run is held under license at the time of sale, and the said license is extended to the month of March following the determination of the license, the said purchaser shall pay in advance one half-year's rent of the run on the new license; and if the run is held under license but there is no such extension of the said license, then he shall pay in advance the rent of the run for the whole period between the determination of the old license and the date of the new license.

(b.) In respect of lands not previously held under license, the aforesaid purchaser shall pay in advance the rent of the run described in the license from the date of the auction to the first day of September next after the date of the license.