

[AS REPORTED FROM THE NATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 11TH OCTOBER, 1900.]

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

MAORI LANDS ADMINISTRATION.

ANALYSIS.

- Title.
- 1. Short Title.
- 2. Act divided into Parts.
- PART I.
PRELIMINARY.
- 3. Interpretation.
- 4. References.
- PART II.
DISTRICTS AND COUNCILS.
- As to Districts.*
- 5. Districts.
- As to the Councils.*
- 6. Maori Councils.
- 7. Elected and nominated members.
- 8. Council to be a body corporate. Term of office. Resignation. Removal. Vacancies. Elections.
- 9. Proceedings at meetings of Council.
- PART III.
POWERS OF COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION OF MAORI LANDS WITHIN EACH DISTRICT.
- 10. Powers of Council.
- 11. Appeals to Native Appellate Court.
- 12. In case of deadlock Chief Judge to decide.
- 13. Council may refer any claim to any Block Committee for further report.
- 14. Report to be gazetted and given effect to unless caveat lodged.
- 15. How orders to be sealed.
- 16. When orders to have effect.
- 17. Orders may be registered.
- 18. Block Committees.
- 19. Committee may investigate titles.
- 20. Committee to prepare report.
- 21. Report and sketch-plan to be forwarded to Council for consideration.
- 22. Council may make order thereon.
- As to Papakaingas.*
- 23. Papakaingas. Lost papakainga certificates.
- As to Alienation.*
- 24. Alienation to be only under this Act.
- 25. When Maori may alienate land.
- 26. Governor may remove restrictions.
- 27. All alienations to be confirmed by Council.

- 28. Alienation, how effected.
- 29. Purchaser or lessee to make declaration.
- 30. Prohibited dealings when more than twenty owners.
- 31. Maoris may convey land in trust to Council.
- 32. Powers of Council in respect thereof.
- 33. Council may constitute Maori owners, when more than twenty, a body corporate.
- 34. Council may administer lands held under grant or certificate by more than twenty Maoris, on application from owners.
- 35. Also eel-weirs.
- Miscellaneous Provisions.*
- 36. Lands not to be subject to higher rate or tax than that to which they were previously liable.
- 37. Alienations liable to stamp but not Native duty.
- As to Completion of Dealings pending.*
- 38. Purchases for Queen may be completed.
- 39. Completion of lawful private dealings.
- As to the Council's Register.*
- 40. Council to keep register of lands.
- 41. Inspection of register and alterations therein.
- 42. Accuracy of entries in register to be certified at intervals by Native Land Court.
- 43. Register to be conclusive evidence.
- As to the Application of Proceeds of Alienations by the Council.*
- 44. Application of moneys derived from alienations.
- 45. Payments to be made at intervals.
- 46. Native owner not to dispose of interest except by will.
- 47. Land of Maori not to be seizable nor to be assets.
- As to Accounts.*
- 48. Where Maori Council Account to be kept.
- 49. Operation on such account.
- 50. Full accounts to be kept and copies furnished to Audit.
- PART IV.
GENERAL.
- 51. Regulations. Schedule.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Administration of Maori Lands.

BE IT 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 Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900."

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Act divided into Parts.

2. This Act is divided into four Parts, as follows:—

PART I.—Preliminary. (Sections 3 and 4.)

PART II.—Districts and Councils. (Sections 5 to 9.)

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PART III.—Powers of Council and Administration of Maori Lands within each District. (Sections 10 to 50.)

PART IV.—General. (Section 51.)

PART I.

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PRELIMINARY.

Interpretation

3. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—

"Alienation," and all reference thereto, include sale, lease, mortgage, charge, lien, encumbrance, contract, exchange, and every other disposition, whether absolute or limited: 20

"Council" means a Maori Council constituted under this Act:

"District" means a Maori land district under this Act:

"Maori" means an aboriginal native of New Zealand, and includes half-castes and their descendants by Maoris: 25

"Maori land" means any land or estate or interest in land in New Zealand held, or which may hereafter be held, by any Maori under any class of title, and includes papatupu land, *but does not include*,—

New.

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(a.) Land which, although owned by a Native, has been acquired in fee-simple by purchase from the Crown or a European; nor

(b.) Land which is subject to or administered under the provisions of any of the following Acts, that is to say,— 35

"The Westland and Nelson Native Reserves Act, 1887,"

"The West Coast Settlement Reserves Act, 1892,"

"The Native Townships Act, 1895,"

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"The Urewera District Native Reserve Act, 1896," and

"The Kapiti Island Public Reserves Act, 1897" nor

(c.) Native land in the Middle Island or any other lands controlled by any other special Act: 45

"Order" means any award, decision, or other order made by the Council by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by this Act:

“ Owner ” shall include those holding land in trust or otherwise :

“ Papakainga ” means an inalienable reserve set aside for the occupation and support of any person of the Maori race as in this Act provided :

“ Papakainga certificate ” means the certificate issued by the Council on making any such inalienable reserve :

“ Papatupu land ” means any land claimed or owned by Maoris the title to which has not yet been investigated and determined :

“ Prescribed ” means prescribed by regulations under this Act :

“ Registrar ” means the District Land Registrar of the land registration district in which the land is situate.

4. All references in this Act to Maori owners shall be construed as applying to the Maori owners of Maori lands situate in the Maori and district to which the reference relate s.

References.

PART II.

DISTRICTS AND COUNCILS.

As to Districts.

5. For the purposes of this Act there shall be within the North Island of New Zealand not less than ~~five nor more than~~ six Maori land districts, ~~to be called respectively the Northern Maori Districts, the Eastern Maori Districts, the Western Maori Districts.~~

Districts.

The boundaries *and names* of such districts are to be defined by the Governor in Council, *the same to be gazetted and published in the Kahiti.*

As to Councils.

6. For each Maori land district there shall be a Maori Council, which shall be called the “ District Maori Council,” and shall consist of not more than ~~eight~~ seven and not less than ~~four~~ five members, to wit,—

Maori Councils.

(1.) A President to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be a ~~Judge of the Native Land Court~~ hereinafter to be called “ the President.”

(2.) Not less than ~~one~~ two nor more than three other persons to be appointed by the Governor, *one of whom shall be a Maori.*

(3.) Not less than two nor more than ~~four~~ three Maoris to be elected by the Maoris of the district out of their number.

New subclause.

(4.) No elected Maori shall be a member of more than one Council.

Struck out.

7. The number of elected and nominated members, inclusive of the President, shall be equal, and no elected Maori shall be a member of more than one Council.

Elected and nominated members.

8. Every Council shall be a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal ; and with respect to the Council and its members the following provisions shall apply :—

Council to be a body corporate.

- office. (1.) The ordinary term of office of each member of the Council shall be three years, but a retiring member shall be eligible for reappointment or re-election.
- Resignation. (2.) A member may at any time resign his seat by notice in writing under his hand delivered to the Governor in the case of the President, and to the President in the case of any other member. 5
- Removal. (3.) A member may be removed from office at any time by the Governor if the Governor is of opinion that from any cause he is incapacitated to act, or that he has been guilty of any misconduct which renders him unfit for office. 10
- Vacancies. (4.) The seat of a member shall become vacant if he resigns, or is removed from office, or dies, or becomes bankrupt, or is convicted of any crime punishable by imprisonment for twelve months or upwards, or is absent from three successive ordinary meetings of the Council without leave of the Council; and every such vacancy shall be deemed to be a casual vacancy. 15
- Elections. (5.) Every vacancy consequent on the expiry of the ordinary term of office shall be deemed to be an ordinary vacancy. 20
- Struck out.*
- (6.) Every vacancy, whether casual or ordinary, shall be filled by the same appointing or electing authority as in the case of the vacating member: Provided that where the vacating member is a Maori, and the unexpired residue of his term does not exceed twelve months, the Governor may fill the vacancy by the appointment of a qualified Maori. 25
- New subclause.* 30
- (6.) In the event of a vacancy in a Council, the Governor may appoint another Maori in the place of the vacating member: Provided that any member so appointed shall hold office only for the unexpired period of the term of the Council. 35
- (7.) Every casual vacancy shall be filled within twenty-eight days after the occurring thereof, and the member filling it shall hold office only for the unexpired residue of the term of the vacating member.
- (8.) Every appointed member shall take office on the date of his appointment. 40
- (9.) The election to fill an ordinary vacancy shall be held on the twenty-eighth day next before the vacancy occurs consequent on the expiry of the term, and the elected member shall take office on the day of such expiry. 45
- (10.) Every election shall be held in the same manner, as nearly as may be, as in the case of an election of a member of the House of Representatives for a Maori electoral district.
- (11.) In the case of Native members "The Disqualification Act, 1878," shall not apply. 50
- (12.) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations thereunder, the elections shall be held at such time and

place and in such manner as are directed by the Governor in the case of the first election, and by the Council in the case of every subsequent election.

- 5 (13.) Each member, *except the President, who shall be paid by the Government*, shall be entitled to receive out of funds under the control of the Council the sum of ten shillings for each day whilst he is actually engaged on the business of the Council, together with all sums actually paid by him for train-fares, steamer-fares, coach-fares, or horse-hire whilst travelling on such business :

New proviso.

Provided that such cost shall be apportioned fairly according to the expenses properly incurred in respect of each block.

15 9. With respect to all meetings of the Council the following provisions shall apply :—

Proceedings at meetings of Council.

- 20 (1.) The quorum shall in every case be ~~one more than half~~ a majority of the total number of members constituting the Council: Provided that in every case at least one Maori member shall be necessary in order to constitute the quorum.
- (2.) The President shall be Chairman, and shall have a deliberative vote, ~~but not~~ and a casting-vote.
- 25 (3.) In the absence of the President from any meeting he may appoint a European member to act as Deputy Chairman at such meeting, and the Deputy Chairman, whilst so acting, shall have the same powers as the Chairman.
- (4.) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations thereunder, the Council may regulate its own procedure.

30 PART III.

POWERS OF COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION OF MAORI LANDS WITHIN EACH DISTRICT.

10. The Council shall, in respect of all Maori lands within its district, have and exercise all the powers, ~~authority, and jurisdiction~~

Powers of Council.

Struck out.

35 vested in the Native Land Court by virtue of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," and for such purpose Parts III. and IV. of that Act shall be construed, so far as the context will permit, as if incorporated with this Act :

40 Provided that the Council shall not have or exercise the powers, authority, and jurisdiction conferred upon it by this section in respect to any particular block, except as follows :—

- 45 (1.) Upon the written application of a majority of the Maori owners of a block of land, or the Block Committee, who are authorised by the owners to deal with such land within its district ;
- (2.) Unless the Council has previously satisfied itself that the Maoris making such application are a majority of the owners of such land ;
- 50 (3.) Unless the Council reports to the Minister for Native Affairs that it has satisfied itself as aforesaid, and such application and report are published in the *Gazette* and *Kahiti*.

New.

now possessed by the Native Land Court as to ascertainment of ownership, partition, succession, the definition of relative interests, and the appointment of trustees for Native owners under disability :

Provided that the Council shall not proceed to exercise its powers in any matter under this section unless and until directed so to do by the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court. 5

Appeals to Native Appellate Court.

11. Every person who is dissatisfied with any order made by the Council in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by or under the *last preceding* section of this Act may, within two months after the date of such order, appeal thereupon to the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, who shall, as he thinks fit, either himself inquire into and determine the appeal, or refer the appeal to the Native Appellate Court constituted under Part X. of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," and in the latter case the Native Appellate Court shall have power to hear and determine the appeal. 10 15

Struck out.

In case of deadlock Chief Judge to decide.

12. In any case where the Council is equally divided on any question before it arising out of the discharge of its judicial functions conferred on it by section fourteen of this Act, and by reason thereof a deadlock arises, the matter in question shall, in the prescribed manner, be referred to the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, whose decision shall be final. 20

Council may refer any claim to any Block Committee for further report.

13. The Council may for all or any of the purposes for which jurisdiction has been conferred upon it by this Act refer any claim or question brought before the Council to any Block Committee for further investigation and report. 25

Report to be gazetted and given effect to unless caveat lodged.

14. On receipt of any such report from any Block Committee, and after having given due notice by publication in the *Kahiti* and *Gazette* of its intention so to do, the Council may proceed to give effect to such report, and make such order thereon as the Council thinks fit : 30

Struck out.

Provided that if a caveat is lodged in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time the Council, in lieu of giving effect to such report or making any order thereon, shall refer the question to an open meeting of the Maoris interested, and after considering the result of such meeting shall proceed as follows :— 35

- (1.) Either refer the question to some other Block Committee to be appointed by the Council ; or
- (2.) Investigate the question afresh and make such order thereon as the Council thinks fit. 40

How orders to be sealed.

15. All orders made by the Council shall be sealed with its seal and signed by the President and at least two members, one of whom shall be a Maori.

When orders to have effect.

16. Every such order shall be forthwith forwarded in duplicate by the Council to the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, who shall briefly notify the purport thereof in the *Kahiti*, and if no appeal is lodged with the Chief Judge within two months after such notification he shall countersign and issue the same, whereupon the order shall have effect. 45 50

Orders may be registered.

17. Every such order affecting Maori land or title thereto may be registered in the prescribed manner.

As to Papatupu Block Committees.

18. Maoris claiming to be the owners of any specified block of Maori papatupu land within a district may, in the prescribed manner, elect a committee, to be called "the Papatupu Committee of the Block"; and with respect to such committee the following provisions shall apply:—

Block Committees.

(1.) The committee shall consist of such number of persons, being not less than *five* nor more than *nine*, as is prescribed.

(2.) In no case shall a member of the Council be a member of the committee.

(3.) The term of office of each member of the committee shall be *three* years, but retiring members shall be eligible for re-election; and every election shall be held at such time and place as the Council appoints.

(4.) Subject to regulations under this Act, the committee may direct its own procedure.

19. The committee, having due regard to Maori customs and usages, shall make full investigation into the ownership of the block, and, as the result of such investigation, shall cause a sketch-plan of the block to be prepared *by an authorised surveyor* setting forth the situation and boundaries of the block, adopting hapu boundaries as far as practicable.

Committee may investigate titles.

20. The committee shall also prepare a report setting forth—

Committee to prepare report.

(1.) The names of the owners of the block, grouping families together, but specifying the name of each member of each family;

(2.) The relative share of the block to which each family is entitled;

(3.) The relative share to which each member of the family is entitled in such family's share of the block;

(4.) Such other particulars as are prescribed.

21. Such sketch-plan and report shall be forwarded by the committee to the Council, and the Council, after considering the same, and giving all parties concerned full opportunity of being heard, shall in the prescribed manner by order confirm the same with such modification or alterations as it finds to be necessary.

Report and sketch-plan to be forwarded to Council for consideration.

22. The committee's sketch-plan and report and the Council's confirming order may be made although the block has not been surveyed, or a survey-plan authorised by the Surveyor-General has not been prepared, and, except at the request of the committee, the actual survey of the block, or of any part thereof, shall not be necessary until after the Council's confirming order has taken effect, anything in "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," or any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Council may make order thereon.

As to Papakaingas.

23. With respect to all Maori lands within the district of the Council the following special provisions shall apply:—

Papakaingas.

(1.) The Council shall with all convenient speed proceed to ascertain and determine what land each Maori, man, woman, or child, has suitable for his, her, or its occupa-

tion and support, and to determine how much thereof and what portion is necessary for such purpose, and shall declare an area of such land of not less than fifty acres first-class land, or one hundred acres of second class land, to be a papakainga for each such Maori for his or her maintenance and support and to grow food upon, and shall issue a papakainga certificate declaring that the Council holds such land in trust as is a papakainga for such Maori, and thereupon such land shall vest in the Council in trust to permit such Maori to occupy such land for his maintenance, support, and to grow food upon. 5

- (2.) Such land shall be absolutely inalienable.
- (3.) Papakainga certificates shall be prepared on parchment, in triplicate, and shall set forth a plan and description of the land, and the name of the holder thereof. 15
- (4.) One copy of such certificate shall be filed by the Council, one copy shall be filed with the Registrar, and the third copy shall be issued to the Maori named therein as the holder thereof.
- (5.) Such certificates shall be signed by the President of the Council and sealed with its seal, and the production thereof shall be conclusive evidence that the holder thereof alienating any other land owned by him has sufficient land left for his occupation and support. 20
- (6.) In the event of loss or destruction of a papakainga certificate, the owner thereof may apply to the Council for a duplicate copy thereof. Such application shall be supported by a declaration setting forth the facts or circumstances under which such certificate was lost, and the Council may issue a duplicate thereof. 25
- (7.) In cases where the whole of the land of any Maori is unsuitable for his occupation and support, he may, with the consent of the Council, either exchange the land for other suitable land, or he may sell the land and purchase other suitable land. In all such cases of sale and purchase of land the Council shall receive the purchase-money derived from the sale of the said land, and expend the same in paying for the land purchased. The suitability or unsuitability of any land to be so exchanged, sold, or purchased shall be determined by the Council. 30 35 40

Lost papakainga certificates.

As to Alienation.

Alienation to be only under this Act.

24. Immediately upon the coming into operation of this Act Maori land, except such as is held under title issued under the provisions of the Land Transfer Act, shall not be alienated by way of lease, either to the Crown or to any other person, except with the consent of the Council first obtained and in accordance with the provisions of this Act : 45

New Proviso.

Provided that in the case of alienation by way of sale where the land belongs to more than two owners, the consent of the Governor in Council to such sale shall be first had and obtained. 50

25. No Maori shall alienate any Maori land, either to the Crown or to any other person, unless and until he has had issued to him a papakainga certificate as hereinbefore provided.

When Maori alienate land.

26. For the purposes of this Act the Governor may, on the recommendation of the Council, remove and revoke any and all restrictions existing against the alienation of Maori land, whether contained in any Crown grant certificate or other instrument of title, or in any Act heretofore passed; and thereafter, but subject in every case to the provisions of this Act, the Maori owners of the land against the alienation whereof the restrictions have been so removed and revoked shall have the same rights and privileges to alienate the land as a European possesses in respect of his land:

Governor may remove restrictions.

Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to authorise the alienation of papakaingas.

15 *Struck out.*

27. Maori land owned by not more than twenty Maoris shall be alienable by lease, subject to confirmation by the Council, or shall be alienable by mortgage or sale with the consent of the Council previously had and obtained.

All alienations to be confirmed by Council.

28. No alienation of Maori land by a Maori shall be valid unless the alienation is effected by instrument signed by the alienating Maori, nor unless the following conditions are complied with in respect of such instrument:—

Alienation, how effected.

(1.) Previous to the execution of the instrument there shall be indorsed thereon a translation in the Maori language of the contents thereof, certified as correct by a duly licensed interpreter; also a plan of the land dealt with: and

(2.) The instrument shall be signed in the presence of a member of the Council, or a Stipendiary Magistrate, or a Justice of the Peace, or a Postmaster, and a licensed interpreter, as the attesting witnesses thereof, who shall satisfy themselves that each alienating Maori understood the meaning and purport thereof:

Struck out.

(3.) In the case of an alienation by way of sale or mortgage the money shall be paid in the presence of the attesting witnesses, who shall certify on the instrument that they saw the money paid:

(4.) There shall be indorsed on the instrument the number of the papakainga certificate of each alienating Maori, and such further references to the papakainga as will enable the Registrar to satisfy himself that each such Maori has sufficient land left for his occupation and support:

(5.) On being satisfied that the provisions of this Act have been complied with, the District Land Registrar may register the instrument.

29. (1.) It shall not be lawful for any European to acquire for himself, or on behalf of any other person, either by purchase, lease, or gift, any Maori land, unless previous to the execution of the instrument of acquisition he has deposited with the Council a declaration in form required by "The Land Act, 1892," declaring that he is acquiring the land for his own use, and that, including

Purchaser or lessee to make declaration.

the land to be acquired, he does not hold or own more than six hundred and forty acres of first-class or two thousand acres of second-class land.

(2.) On receipt of such declaration the Council, if satisfied thereon, may, if it think fit so to do, issue to the declarant a license permitting him to acquire such Maori land. 5

(3.) If such declaration contains any wilfully false statement, and the declarant is convicted of perjury in respect thereof, then all his rights in respect of the land acquired shall be deemed to be forfeited, and void : Provided this shall, as to area, not apply to persons at the present time holding leases of Maori land. 10

Struck out.

Prohibited dealings when more than twenty owners.

30. Except in the case of transfers to the Council, or of transfers by incorporated owners, as hereinafter provided, it shall not be lawful for any person to acquire, either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person, any Maori land the number of Maori owners of which exceeds twenty at the time of the proposed acquisition. 15

Maoris may convey land in trust to Council.

31. Any Maori or Maoris, whether incorporated or otherwise, owning Maori land may transfer the same, or any definite part thereof, by way of trust to the Council upon such terms as to leasing, cutting up, managing, improving, and raising money upon the same as may be set forth in writing between the owners and the Council ; and the Council is hereby authorised and empowered to accept such trust : 20

Provided that, in the case of unincorporated owners, all the owners must execute the necessary instrument of transfer, and the whole block so owned, or a definite part thereof, must pass thereby. 25

Powers of Council in respect thereof.

32. With respect to any Maori land which is duly transferred as aforesaid to the Council, the following provisions shall apply :— 30

(1.) The Council shall have full power and authority, at the request in writing of a majority of owners, to reserve and render inalienable such portion of such land as may be required for their occupation and support, and also to reserve any land as burial-grounds, eel-pas or eel-weirs, fishing-grounds, or as reserves for the protection of native birds, or the conservation of timber and fuel for the future use of the Maori owners. 35

(2.) As regards the balance of such land, but subject to the provisions of the instrument creating such trust, the Council shall have full power and authority to lease the same by public tender upon such terms and conditions as may to it seem fit. 40

(3.) The Council, if so authorised in that behalf by the instrument creating the trust, may borrow money upon the security of the land, or a definite part thereof, to such extent and on such terms in all respects as it thinks fit, and may apply the net proceeds so borrowed in or towards discharging *valid* mortgages or survey-charging liens and other *bonâ fide valid* expenses or debts of the Maori owners incurred in perfecting the title to the said land, or to any other lands owned by the same Maoris, and may apply the balance in cutting up, surveying, roading, 45 50

opening up, preparing, and advertising such land for lease, or generally improving such land or any other land of the same owners.

5 (4.) The Council shall be entitled to call for vouchers and investigate any such of the aforesaid debts or expenses as are not secured on the land, and may reject or reduce any claim against the owners which the Council is of opinion was not properly incurred in respect to perfecting the title to any such land.

10 (5.) The Council may execute valid and effectual instruments of mortgage or charge of the land as security for the money so borrowed, and such instruments may contain all such powers and provisions as the Council thinks fit, or as may be prescribed by regulations under this Act.

15 (6.) For the purposes of this section, the Council may borrow money from the Public Trust Office, the Government Insurance Office, the Commissioner of Public Debts Sinking Funds, *the Government Advances to Settlers Department*, or such other lending departments as the Governor in Council from time to time names in this behalf; but the Council shall have no power or authority to borrow money from any bank, private institution, or person without the consent of the Governor.

20 (7.) For the purpose of this section the Minister of Lands may, out of moneys appropriated for the purchase of Native lands or specially for the purposes of this Act by Parliament, lend money to the Council on mortgage of the land, for such term of years, at such rate of interest, and with the same margin of security as is provided in the case of advances on land under the Advances to Settlers Act:

25 Provided that the total sum to be lent by the Minister to any one Council in any one year shall not exceed *ten thousand* pounds.

30 33. (1.) The Maori owners of any Maori land held under any class of ascertained title by more than ~~twenty~~ *ten* owners may form themselves into a body corporate, as provided by Part II. of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," and the Council shall have all the powers and authority conferred on the Native Land Court by such Act to constitute any such Maori landowners a body corporate.

Council may constitute Maori owners, when more than twenty, a body corporate.

35 (2.) Upon the constitution of any such body corporate the duly elected Committee may, with the consent of a majority of the owners, transfer the land, or any part thereof, to the Council upon such trusts as may be agreed upon between the parties: Provided that 40 the consent of the Commissioner of Crown Lands shall not be required.

45 34. Any Maori land held under Crown grant or certificate of title by more than ~~twenty~~ *ten* Maoris may be administered by the Council in the manner and subject to the conditions following, 50 that is to say,—

Council may administer lands held under grant or certificate by more than twenty Maoris on application from owners.

(1.) The owners, or a majority of them, may apply in writing to the Council to administer the land in manner as nearly as may be similar to the administration of Crown lands by a Land Board under "The Land Act, 1892."

- (2.) The application shall be in the prescribed form, and shall be signed and attested in the prescribed manner :
- (3.) For the purpose of the administration of such land the Council shall have all the powers of a Land Board in respect of Crown lands, with full power and authority to alienate by way of lease or mortgage, but not by sale save as hereinbefore provided by subsection (7) of clause 23, such land, subject to the rules and regulations for the time being in force affecting Land Boards : 5
- (4.) Before dealing with any application under this section the Council shall satisfy itself that each of the owners of the land is the holder of a papakainga certificate, and that no part of such papakainga is included in the land to be administered : Provided that, in the event of any Maori not holding such certificate, the Council may set aside a suitable portion of land owned by such Maori as a papakainga, and may then deal with the application : 10
- (5.) In cases where only a majority of the owners apply to the Council to administer their land, the Council shall partition off the interests of the objectors, if any, and administer the residue : 15
- (6.) A notice by the Council in the *Gazette* and *Kahiti* that any specified block of Maori land is administered by the Council shall be conclusive evidence of the fact :
- (7.) The Registrar shall register a copy of such notice, and thereupon the Council shall for all purposes of administration be deemed to be the owner of the land : 25
- (8.) For the purposes of such administration the Council shall in its own name execute all instruments of alienation, and generally have and be entitled to exercise all the rights of an owner in fee-simple. 30

Struck out.

Also eel-weirs.

35. All eel-weirs, fishing-streams, or lakes used by Maoris and to which they are entitled are hereby vested in the Council in trust for any Maoris or hapus entitled thereto, to allow them to use and enjoy the same: Provided that no eel-weir shall obstruct the navigation of a navigable river, and also that every eel-weir in a navigable river shall have an opening of not less than eight feet. 35

Miscellaneous Provisions.

Lands not to be subject to higher rate or tax than that to which they were previously liable.

36. Nothing in this Act contained shall operate to render Maori lands that are vested in the Council or in incorporated Maori owners, or the income or other moneys arising therefrom, or the Maori owners who are entitled thereto, liable to any other or higher rate or tax than that to which the same were liable prior to the lands being vested as aforesaid. 40

Alienations liable to stamp but not Native duty.

37. Alienations effected under the provisions of this Act shall be liable to the same stamp duty as in the case of alienations of other than Native lands, but shall not be liable to Native land stamp duty. 45

As to Completion of Dealings pending.

Purchases for the Queen may be completed.

38. In any case where, at the time of the adoption of this Act in a district, negotiations for the purchase on behalf of Her Majesty of any specified block of Maori land are in progress, such purchase 50

may be completed, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding; and a certificate by the Minister for Native Affairs that negotiations for such purchase were then in progress shall be sufficient evidence of the fact.

5 39. In any case where, at the time of the adoption of this Act in a district, any lawful private dealings in Maori land, being a dealing which was *bona fide* commenced subsequent to the passing of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894," is in *bona fide* progress, and has been *bona fide* completed in part, the following provisions shall
10 apply:—

Completion of
lawful private deal-
ings.

- 15 (1.) At any time within two months after such adoption, any party to such dealing may give to the Council written notice specifying the nature of the dealing, the land to which it relates, the extent to which the dealing is complete, and his desire to wholly complete the same.
- 20 (2.) Any dealing as to which the aforesaid notice is duly given may at any time within twelve months after such adoption be completed with the Council on behalf of the Maori owner, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding.
- (3.) After the expiration of the time hereinbefore limited for the completion of the dealing, the Council may ascertain and determine by partition of the land or otherwise the respective interests of the parties to the dealing.
- 25 (4.) Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to authorise the completion of any dealing which could not have been lawfully completed if this Act had not been passed.

As to the Council's Register.

30 40. The Council shall compile and keep a register, setting forth in respect of each separate block of Maori land vested in it or administered by it—

Council to keep
register of lands.

- 35 (1.) The area and description of the block, *and the mode in which the block is disposed of*;
- (2.) The names of the Maori owners of the block, their respective interests therein, and the date on which each Maori owner became entitled to his interest therein, *and the names of any Block Committee elected under the provisions of this Act*;
- 40 (3.) Such other particulars as are prescribed.

41. (1.) The register, or a copy thereof, shall be kept open for public inspection, without fee, in such convenient place in the district and during such hours as the Council prescribes.

Inspection of
register and altera-
tions therein.

45 (2.) The Council shall from time to time make all such alterations in the register as are necessary for the purpose of duly recording all changes of ownership, and generally of keeping the register accurate in every respect.

50 42. (1.) At prescribed intervals the register shall be submitted to a competent authority, who shall inquire into and definitely settle and certify to the accuracy of all entries therein relating to the Maori owners and their respective interests, and for that purpose shall make all such additions and amendments as are necessary in order that the register may contain an accurate record of the Maori owners and their respective interests as on and during the last-
55 ceding half-year.

Accuracy of entries
in register to be
certified at intervals
by Native Land
Court.

(2.) Such authority shall be the Native Land Court or a Judge thereof, or, in the event of the abolition of the Native Land Court, such other fit person or persons as, after considering any recommendation of the Council, the Governor from time to time appoints.

Register to be conclusive evidence.

43. The register, when certified to as aforesaid, shall be conclusive evidence of the names of the Maori owners and their respective interests during the period to which the certificate relates.

As to the Application of Proceeds of Alienations by the Council.

Application of moneys derived from alienations.

44. All sums derived in respect of the alienation by the Council of Maori lands vested in or administered by the Council under the provisions of this Act shall be paid to the Council, and shall, in the prescribed manner, be applied by the Council—

(1.) First, in defraying the cost of administration :

New proviso.

Provided that such cost shall be apportioned fairly according to the expenses properly incurred in respect of each block.

(2.) Secondly, in defraying all moneys due and payable in respect of any valid mortgage, lien, charge, or liability affecting the land.

(3.) Thirdly, in paying the surplus to the Maori owners in shares proportionate to their respective interests, as shown by the register when certified as aforesaid.

Payments to be made at intervals.

45. Such application and payment shall be computed and made at prescribed intervals.

Native owner not to dispose of interest except by will.

46. Except as provided by this Act, no Maori owner shall alienate, charge, or otherwise dispose of his interest in any Maori land, or in the income thereof, ~~otherwise than by will made in favour of a Maori.~~

Land of Maori not to be seizable nor to be assets.

47. In no case shall any Maori owners' interest in Maori land or the income thereof be liable to be seized, sold, attached, or levied upon by any process of law (except under the power of sale contained in any lawful mortgage), nor shall it become assets in bankruptcy.

As to Accounts.

Where Maori Council Account to be kept.

48. All moneys payable under this Act to the Council shall, as and when received, be paid into the bank at which the Public Account of the colony is kept, to the credit of an account to be called "The Maori Council Account of the Maori Land District of [Name of the district]"; and all moneys payable under this Act by the Council shall be paid out of such account.

Operation on such account.

49. Such account shall be operated on only by cheque signed by the President and two members, or in such other manner as is prescribed.

Full accounts to be kept, and copies furnished to Audit.

50. The Council shall cause full and accurate accounts to be kept of all moneys received and paid by it under this Act, and shall at such intervals as are prescribed, and also whenever the Controller and Auditor-General so directs, furnish to him copies or abstracts of such accounts in such form as he directs.

PART IV.

GENERAL.

Regulations.

51. The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council published in the *Gazette* and *Kahiti*, make regulations for any of the purposes following, that is to say,—

- 5 (1.) Regulating the conduct of elections of Maori members of Council ;
- (2.) Defining the powers, functions, and duties of the President
 5 (2a.) *Defining the powers, functions, and duties of Block Committees ;*
 and the Council respectively ;
- (3.) Making provision for the appointment of Returning Officers, Receivers, and other officers under this Act, fixing their salaries, and defining their functions and duties ;
- 10 (4.) Making provision for the taking of Maori land for roads or streets, or for public works within the meaning of " The Public Works Act, 1894," or for any of the purposes referred to in this Act ;
- (5.) Laying off townships ;
- 15 (6.) Fixing the maximum area that may be comprised in any one lease of Maori land, or that may be held by any one lessee ;
- (7.) Classifying and surveying Maori lands ;
- (8.) Fixing the mode in which Maori lands may be leased or otherwise disposed of under this Act ;
- 20 (9.) Prescribing the forms, conditions, and covenants of leases and other instruments under this Act, and the mode of execution and registration thereof ;
- (10.) Defining the duties and powers of the Registrar in respect of the registration of leases and other instruments under this Act ;
- 25 (11.) Prescribing the mode in which and the principle on which valuation for improvements shall be computed ;
- (12.) Applying to this Act such of the provisions of " The Mining Act, 1898," " The Land Act, 1892," and " The Public Works Act, 1894," as he thinks fit, with such modifications as he deems necessary for the purposes of this Act ;
- 30 (13.) Fixing a scale of fees to be charged by the Council, ~~and the commission, if any, to be charged on moneys received and distributed by it ;~~
- 35 (14.) Any other purpose for which regulations are contemplated or required under this Act, or which he deems necessary in order to give full effect to the intention of this Act.

SCHEDULE.

FORM No. 1.—PETITION.

Schedule.

Under " The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900."

To His Excellency the Governor :

THE undersigned, being [*Set out number, not less than twenty*] adult Maori owners of Maori land situate within the _____ Maori District, hereby petition His Excellency the Governor to declare " The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900," to be adopted in the aforesaid district.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1900.

[Here set out a Maori translation of the foregoing portion of the petition.]

No.	Signature of Petitioner.	Age, in Years.	Block in which Petitioner has interest as Owner.	Signature of Witness, in testimony that the Petitioner fully understood the purport of the Petition before signing it.
1	A.B. ...			E.F.
2	C.D. ...			G.H.
&c.	&c. ...			&c.

[The attesting witness must be a Justice of the Peace, a solicitor, a Postmaster, a Clerk of the Magistrate's Court, or a Registrar or other officer of the Native Land Court.]

FORM 2.—NOTICE OF OBJECTION.

Under "The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900."

To His Excellency the Governor :

THE undersigned, being [Set out number, not less than twenty] adult Maori owners of Maori land situate within the . . . Maori District, hereby give His Excellency notice that they object to the petition of [Set out name of first petitioner] and others respecting the adoption of "The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900," within the aforesaid district, as set forth in His Excellency's notice in the *Kahiti* on the . . . day of . . . , 1 . . . [Set out date of the Governor's notice.]

Dated this . . . day of . . . , 1 . . .

[To be translated, signed, attested, and completed in the same manner as in the case of the petition.]

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1900.