

Nelson Crown Lands Leasing.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Crown Lands (Nelson) Leasing Act, 1867." Title.

WHEREAS an Act was passed by the General Assembly of New Zealand intituled "The Crown Lands (Nelson) Leasing Act, 1867:" And whereas it is expedient that the said Act should be amended: Preamble.

5 BE IT THEREFORE 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 shall be "The Nelson Crown Lands Leasing Act Amendment Act, 1870." Short Title.

10 2. The fifth clause of the said recited Act shall be construed and read as if the words "not suited for agricultural purposes" had been omitted therefrom. Agricultural land may be leased.

3. The

Fee to be credited to applicant.

3. The fee of five pounds payable on any future application for a lease shall in event of such lease being granted be placed to the credit of the applicant towards the payment of his rent.

Sections to be rectilinear.

4. All sections of land to be leased shall except in the case of natural boundaries be rectilinear and no such sections shall be taken so as in the opinion of the Waste Lands Board to render less available for sale or lease or injuriously to affect in value any other portion of the Waste Lands.

Lessee to be entitled to Crown Grant after certain annual payments.

5. Any applicant for a lease of Crown Land may in his application request the Waste Lands Board to assess the land at its value to sell and in the event of such application for a lease being acceded to shall be entitled to a lease thereof for the term of fourteen years at an annual rental of ten pounds per centum on such assessed value for sale payable in advance, and on the due and punctual payment of such rent for the term of fourteen years and upon the due performance and observance of the covenants contained or implied in such lease he shall be entitled to a Crown Grant of such land. Provided always, that no greater quantity of land than two hundred acres shall be so leased to any one person.

Holders of Leases issued under recited Act may exchange same.

6. The holder of any Lease already issued under the said recited Act may at any time within one year from the passing hereof have his land re-assessed by the Waste Lands Board at its value to sell and exchange such Lease for a Lease under the last preceding clause, subject to the provisions therein contained.

Board may grant protection to discoverers of auriferous land.

7. It shall be lawful for the Waste Lands Board, if they shall think fit, on receipt of a fee of Five Pounds, to grant protection, for a period of not exceeding thirty days, to any discoverer of auriferous land outside any proclaimed goldfield, of a block of such land not exceeding in any one district Sixteen Acres and a half on a quartz reef or One Acre on alluvial ground.

Protected land to be marked out.

8. Any Land so protected as aforesaid shall be marked out by posts, and the word "Protected" posted in some conspicuous place on the said land.

Mining lease may be granted.

9. It shall be lawful for the Waste Lands Board, if they shall think fit, before the expiration of such protection to grant to the *bona fide* discoverer of such protected auriferous land a lease for mining purposes, of the same or so much thereof as the said Board shall think proper, not exceeding One Acre of alluvial ground, or an area of four hundred yards by two hundred yards on a quartz reef, for any term not exceeding fifteen years:

years : Provided always that no such lease shall be granted until Fifteen days after notice of the intention to grant the same, shall have been published in the *Gazette* of the Province, and also in at least one local newspaper.

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10. The rent to be charged on any such lease shall not be assessed by the Waste Lands Board at less than Two Pounds per acre per annum, and the Waste Lands Board shall have power, if they think fit, to impose in such lease any of the conditions usually imposed in gold-mining leases of land within the Goldfields.

Rent to be assessed by Board.

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11. In the event of Land so leased being included within the boundaries of any Goldfield which shall be proclaimed after the issuing of such lease, the Land shall be deemed to be leased under the provisions of the Goldfields Act, then in operation, and shall be subject to the rules and regulations in force for the time being within such Goldfields, and

If land included in future gold-field to be subject to regulations, &c.

15 may be dealt with accordingly.

12. This Act and "The Crown Lands (Nelson) Leasing Act, 1867," shall be taken and read together as one Act.

This Act and recited Act to be read together.