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(Mr. Reid.)

# Otago Waste Lands Administration.

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## A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make provision for the better administration of Waste Lands of the Crown in the Province of Otago. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for the better administration of waste lands of the Crown in the Province of Otago: Preamble.

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 Otago Waste Lands Administration Act, 1874." Short Title.

2. Notwithstanding anything in "The Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," (hereinafter referred to as "the said Act,") contained, all lands which may at any time hereafter be constituted into a hundred shall not be open for sale or lease until the expiration of thirty days from and after the first publication of the Proclamation constituting the hundred: Provided always that it shall be lawful for the Superintendent from time to time, by Proclamation in the Provincial Government Gazette, to fix a date after the said period of thirty days as the date on and after which the lands comprised in such hundred shall be open for sale or lease as aforesaid; and in such case such lands shall not be open until the date mentioned in such last-mentioned Proclamation or the last of such Proclamations, as the case may be. Rural lands, when open for sale.

3. It shall be lawful for the Board, with the consent of the Superintendent, to withdraw from sale any land the sale of which may appear to the Board to be or likely to be prejudicial to the public interest, notwithstanding application may have been made for the sale of such land: Provided always that when any land shall have been withdrawn from sale under this provision, such land shall not be again open for sale until after thirty days' notice of such land being about to be opened for sale shall have been given by advertisement in the Provincial Gazette, specifying the date on and after which applications for the purchase of such land will be received. Board, with consent of Superintendent, may withdraw lands from sale.

Repeal of section  
38 of said Act.

4. Section thirty-eight of the said Act is hereby repealed :  
Provided always that this repeal shall not affect any act or pro-  
ceeding done or commenced under the said section hereby repealed,  
but the same may respectively be enforced and completed as if this  
Act had not been passed.

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Applications, how  
made.

5. Any person desirous of purchasing rural land shall make an  
application in writing for the purchase thereof in a form to be by the  
Board prescribed, either at the Land Office of the district in which the  
land applied for is situate, or at the Land Office in Dunedin ; and every  
such application shall be accompanied by a deposit of ten per centum  
upon the price at which such land shall be open for sale. Any appli-  
cation made at a District Land Office shall be forthwith forwarded to  
the Land Office in Dunedin.

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Decision of Board,  
when given.

6. The decision of the Board upon every application for the pur-  
chase of rural land shall, if such land shall have been previously sur-  
veyed, be given within twenty-one days after the receipt of the  
application at the Land Office in Dunedin ; and if such land shall not  
have been previously surveyed, then such decision shall be given on  
such day as the Board shall appoint, not being more than six months  
from the receipt of the application.

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Deposit may be  
forfeited.

Should any applicant neglect or refuse to complete the purchase  
of the land applied for by him, his deposit shall be absolutely forfeited.

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In Proclamation  
under section 47 of  
said Act, date of  
opening lands to  
be fixed.

7. It shall be lawful for the Superintendent, in the Proclamation  
setting apart any district or block of land under the forty-seventh  
section of the said Act, to fix a date on and after which the lands in  
such districts or blocks, or any part or parts thereof, shall be open for  
license or lease or for sale on immediate payment, and from time to  
time, by a subsequent Proclamation, to alter such date and to fix a sub-  
sequent day on and after which such lands shall be opened as aforesaid.

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Section 49 amended.

8. And whereas it is expedient that applications for licenses to  
occupy land in districts or blocks set apart under the provisions of  
the forty-seventh section of the said Act should be made to any  
Land Office and in any Land District, it is hereby enacted that  
section forty-nine of the said Act shall henceforth be construed and  
read as if the word "any" was inserted in lieu of "a" before the  
words "Land Officer" in the second line of the said section, and as if  
the word "any" had been inserted in the third line of the said section  
before the word "district" in lieu of the word "the."

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Occupation licenses.

9. Every license issued under the ninety-second section of the  
said Act shall be drawn so as to expire on the thirty-first day of  
December.

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The annual fee chargeable in respect of any such license as and  
by way of rental shall be fixed by the Board, and for licenses issued  
after the first day of July in any year, one-half only of the annual fee  
so fixed shall be charged in respect of the unexpired portion of that  
year.

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Construction.

10. This Act shall be read and construed as part of "The Otago  
Waste Lands Act, 1872;" and words and expressions to which a par-  
ticular or special meaning is assigned where used in the said Act,  
shall have the like meanings wherever the same or similar words and  
expressions are used in this Act.

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