

No. , 1915.

A BILL

To amend the law relating to Closer Settlement and certain Acts in relation therewith, and other Acts incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the " Closer Settlement Short title. (Amendment) Act, 1915," and shall be construed with the Closer Settlement Acts.

Definition.

Definition.

2. In this and in any other Act "Closer Settlement Acts" means the Closer Settlement Act, 1904, the Closer Settlement Promotion Act, 1910, and any Acts now passed or hereafter to be passed amending those Acts. 5

Amendment of Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1912.

3. (1) The following new section and short heading are inserted next after section four of the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1912 :— 10

Purchase of certain leases.

Power to purchase leases.

4A. Where any such advisory board shall report to the Minister that the whole or any part of the land comprised in an improvement lease or scrub lease granted under the Crown Lands Acts, or a lease granted under section eighteen of the Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1903, is suitable to be acquired for closer settlement, it shall be lawful for the Minister to purchase by agreement with the lessee the said lease of such land: Provided that the purchase money to be paid to the lessee shall not exceed the advisory board's valuation of the lessee's interest in the lease of the land and in the improvements thereon: Provided further that in any case where the purchase money agreed upon exceeds fifteen thousand pounds the purchase shall be subject to the approval of Parliament expressed by resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament. 15 20 25

(2) Section five of the same Act is amended by inserting the words "or purchased" next after the word "resumed". 30

(3) Section six of the same Act is amended by inserting the words "or purchase" next after the word "resumption". 35

Amendment

Amendment of Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1914.

4. Section three of the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1914, is hereby repealed and the following is substituted for it:—

Amendment of Act of 1914.

- (3) Any purchase or resumptions of land under the Closer Settlement Acts, and any purchases under the last preceding section, shall be paid for— (a) in cash; or (b) with the concurrence of the owner, vendor or mortgagee, by debentures.

The Governor may issue debentures secured on the Closer Settlement Fund, or if the Closer Settlement Funds at any time are insufficient, upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding five per centum per annum in payment of the amount of the purchase money, or compensation payable under the provisions of the Principal Act.

Any such debentures shall be styled "New South Wales Closer Settlement Debentures."

The debentures aforesaid may be issued at such times and for such amounts and for such currency as may be directed by the Governor.

All such debentures shall be numbered consecutively, beginning with number one and progressing arithmetically by units, and shall be signed by—

- The Colonial Treasurer, The Minister for Lands, The Under Secretary for Finance and Trade, and, The Auditor General.

The principal moneys for which such debentures may be made out shall be chargeable on and payable out of the Closer Settlement Fund or the Consolidated Revenue Fund, on the maturing of such debentures.

The interest on such debentures shall be chargeable on and payable out of the Closer Settlement Fund:

Closer Settlement (Amendment).

Fund: Provided that all revenue received from the land in connection with which such sums have been paid shall be credited to the said Fund.

The repeal of the section shall, so far as such repeal affects the words "Such certificate shall be negotiable only with the consent of the Minister", operate as from the commencement of the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1914. 5

Amendment of the Closer Settlement Act, 1904.

5. Section twenty-two of the Closer Settlement Act, 1904, is amended by adding the following proviso at the end of the section:—

"Provided always that the total amount of such costs shall in no case exceed fifty pounds."

Amendment of Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1906. 15

6. Section three of the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1906, is amended by adding the following subsection at the end of the section:—

(3) The provisions of this section shall, mutatis mutandis, apply also to land comprised in any lease resumed or purchased, wholly or in part, under the provisions of the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1912: Provided that where the land is set apart to become available for any tenure under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the Minister may allow a preferential right to apply for a holding of such tenure subject to the conditions aforesaid. 20 25

Lands may be disposed of as suburban holdings.

Land not sold may be set apart as suburban holdings.

7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Closer Settlement Acts, where any land within a settlement purchase area has been offered for sale by auction and not sold (whether such offering for sale was before or after the commencement of this Act), the Minister may set apart such land for disposal as suburban holdings under 30 35

Closer Settlement (Amendment).

under and subject to the provisions of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913: Provided that the amounts received as rent for such suburban holdings shall be credited to the Closer Settlement Fund.

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Regulations.

8. The Governor may make regulations not inconsis- Regulations.
tent with this Act prescribing all matters which by this
Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which
are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for giving
10 effect to this Act, which regulations shall, upon being
published in the Gazette, be good and valid in law:
Provided that a copy of all such regulations shall be laid
before both Houses of Parliament within one month
from the publication thereof if Parliament be then in
15 session, or otherwise within one month after the com-
mencement of the next ensuing session.