

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1921.

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## A BILL

To amend the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916, and certain other Acts; and for purposes connected therewith. —

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**B**E 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:—

**1.** This Act may be cited as the "Returned Soldiers Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1921."

In this Act, the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916, as amended by the Returned Soldiers Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1917, and the Returned Soldiers Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1919, is referred to as the Principal Act.

**2.** The Principal Act is amended as follows :—

Section 4B :—

Subsection four : After the words “ allot him ” insert “ or, in the event of his death, his widow or legal representative ” ;

Subsection five : After the words “ discharged soldier ” insert “ or the widow or legal representative of a discharged soldier who has died ” ;

Subsection six : Omit the words “ within twelve months from the date of allotment.”

Section seven : The following new subsections are inserted after subsection four :—

(5) Any person who sells or agrees to sell, or who otherwise disposes or agrees to dispose of, any article which is included in or is subject to an advance which has not been repaid without having first obtained the consent of the Minister, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *one hundred* pounds, and to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *six* months.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision in any Act, where any holding, in respect of which any advance has been made in pursuance of this Act, is forfeited, any moneys received by or on behalf of the Crown on account of the improvements on the land shall, to the extent of the amount owing in respect of such advance for principal and interest and for expenses incurred in connection with the advance, be paid to the credit of the Returned Soldiers' Advances Account.

Section

Section 7B : The following new paragraph is inserted immediately after the proviso :—

Provided also that the Minister or such commission may reverse any such forfeiture either conditionally or unconditionally, if the Minister or the commission considers that the circumstances of the case justify reversal of the forfeiture.

The following new section is inserted after section 7B :—

7c. Where it appears to the satisfaction of the local land board, after inquiry held in open court, that a group purchase is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the holder thereof, the purchase, together with all money paid in respect thereof, may be forfeited by the Minister by notification in the Gazette.

Section ten : Omit the words “ discharged soldier ” and insert the words “ as aforesaid ” in lieu thereof.

Section nineteen, subsection one :—The following is inserted at the end of the subsection :—

Provided that—

- (a) If the title to the holding commenced before the Returned Soldiers Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1921, came into force, the application shall be made within twelve months after that Act came into force.
- (b) If the title to the holding did not commence until after the Returned Soldiers Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1921, came into force, the application shall be made within twelve months after the commencement of title.

The following new sections are inserted after section twenty :—

21. Where it appears necessary or advisable for the due administration of the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916, or any Act amending

amending the same, that any inquiry or recommendation as to any case or matter should be made by a local land board, it shall be lawful for the Minister to refer such case or matter to the local land board for the purpose, and the local land board shall proceed accordingly and make a report to the Minister.

22. The provisions of sections one hundred and ninety-nine, two hundred, two hundred and one, two hundred and two, and two hundred and sixty-nine of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, are hereby extended so as to apply, mutatis mutandis, to group purchases.

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