

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1918.

A BILL

To provide for a Soldiers' Settlement Fund, and for the keeping of an account in connection therewith; for the application of moneys in such fund; to amend the Audit Act, 1902, the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1916, and certain other Acts; and for other purposes.

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:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Soldiers' Settlement Fund Act, 1918," and shall be construed with the Audit Act, 1902, hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act.

Soldiers' Settlement Fund.

2. There shall be a Soldiers' Settlement Fund, to be constituted in pursuance of this Act.

In connection with such fund an account under the Principal Act shall be kept at the Treasury, and shall be called the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Account.

3. There shall be paid to the Soldiers' Settlement Fund—

- (a) moneys appropriated and directed by Parliament to be paid to the Returned Soldiers Settlement Fund;
- (b) all net receipts in respect of the sale, lease, or occupation of land, under the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916, or any amendment thereof, and moneys derived from the sale of live stock, produce, or from other sources in connection with returned soldiers' settlement;
- (c) repayments of instalments and interest in respect of advances made to returned soldiers;
- (d) such other moneys as the Colonial Treasurer may deem fairly payable to such fund.

4. Money at credit of the Soldiers' Settlement Fund may be applied under the authority of an Act of Parliament for any or all of the following purposes:—

- (1) The acquisition or resumption of land and payment of the cost of the subdivision and disposal of such land or Crown land and the construction of roads or other works, improvements or expenses in connection therewith; the purchase of stock, implements, and such other things as may be deemed necessary; or the payment of other expenses incurred in connection with the settlement of returned soldiers.
- (2) The assistance of returned soldiers by making advances.

5. The Soldiers' Settlement Fund shall be charged—

- (a) with the interest payable to the Consolidated Revenue Account to recoup that account for interest charged on the Consolidated Revenue in respect of loans, the proceeds of which are carried to the Soldiers' Settlement Fund. Such interest

interest shall be calculated on the average rate of interest paid by the Government each financial year ;

- (b) with the amount necessary to recoup the Closer Settlement Fund for the amounts charged thereto in respect of interest, cost of land, and other expenses incurred in connection with land that has been or may be resumed or acquired under the Closer Settlement Acts expressly for soldiers' settlement; and
- (c) with such other expenses in connection with soldiers' settlement as the Colonial Treasurer may deem fairly chargeable against such fund.

6. No moneys shall be drawn from the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Fund except under the authority of this Act.

7. Section fifty-seven of the Principal Act is amended by adding thereto a new paragraph, as follows :—

- (f) A detailed statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Soldiers' Settlement Fund, and the account current of the said fund for such quarter or year.

8. Subsection one of section fifty-eight of the Principal Act is amended by adding thereto a new paragraph, as follows :—

- (g) Statements of the receipts and expenditure for such year of the Soldiers' Settlement Fund.

9. Subsections one and three of section nine of the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, 1916, are repealed.

