

No. XXXIV.

An Act to establish and regulate Labour Settlements on Crown Lands. [13th June, 1893.]

LABOUR
SETTLEMENTS.

—

BE it enacted by the Queen'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 "Labour Settlements Act." Short title.

2. (i) The Governor may, whenever he thinks it desirable in the general interests of the Colony, declare by notice in the *Gazette* that any Crown land therein described and not then under lease from the Crown shall be available for lease for the purpose of a Labour Settlement, and on the publication of such notice the land shall (unless and until such notice be withdrawn by notice in the *Gazette*) be exempt from sale or lease under any Crown Lands Acts or Mining Acts in force for the time being, and the Governor may nominate and appoint any persons, not less than eight and not more than sixteen in number, of whom not more than one-fourth may be females, to be the Board of Control (hereinafter called the "Board") of the Labour Settlement. Establishment of Labour Settlements

(ii) From and after the date of appointment the Board shall be deemed to be and shall be a corporate body, with perpetual succession and a common seal; and the land or any part thereof may be leased to the Board, subject to the provisions and for the purposes of this Act, for any term not exceeding twenty-eight years, commencing on the date of the Governor's approval of the lease, with a right of renewal for a further term not exceeding twenty-eight years: Provided that the Governor may, at any time, by notice in the *Gazette*, dissolve any Board, and thereupon the lease to the Board shall be cancelled, but such cancellation shall not affect any sub-lease or any renewal thereof granted by the Board under this Act.

Labour Settlements.

Assessment and payment of rent by Board.

3. The Minister for Lands shall determine the rent of the land after appraisement by the Local Land Board as constituted under the Crown Lands Acts, and such rent shall be paid annually by the Board, and shall commence from and after the expiration of the fourth year of the lease.

Governor may remove trustees from Board.

4. The Governor may, by notice in the *Gazette*, remove any member of a Board, and may fill any vacancy which may occur by reason of such removal, or any vacancy caused by death or resignation of any member; but every such appointment shall take effect only upon notification in the *Gazette*.

Duties of Board.

5. It shall be the duty of a Board, subject to regulations made by the Governor under this Act, to enrol such persons (hereinafter called "enrolled members"), being of good repute, as it may think fit.

Loans and repayment.

6. When a Board has enrolled such number of persons as the Minister may approve, being either unmarried persons (each of or over the age of twenty-one years), or heads of families, it may apply in writing to the Minister for Lands for monetary assistance, naming the persons for whom such assistance is asked, and furnishing such other particulars as the Minister may require. If the Minister, after due inquiry, approve of the application, he shall certify to that effect to the Colonial Treasurer, and recommend that an amount, to be specified, not exceeding twenty-five pounds for each enrolled member who is the head of a family dependent upon him, or twenty pounds for each married person without a family dependent upon him, and fifteen pounds for each unmarried person should be paid to the Board. On the receipt of that certificate the Colonial Treasurer may pay to the Board the amount so recommended to be paid. The Board shall be held to be trustees of the moneys received by it from the Colonial Treasurer or from any other persons, and shall, subject to any regulations in that behalf, apply the moneys to the purposes for which they were given, and shall keep such accounts as may be prescribed. At the expiration of four years from the commencement of the lease, and each following year eight per centum of the total sum paid to the Board by the Colonial Treasurer under this section shall be a charge on the revenues of the Board payable to the Treasury, until the said sum with interest at the rate of four per centum per annum has been repaid.

Powers of Board.

7. (i) The Board may establish and manage any trade or industry, and may, by regulations, dispose of and apportion the proceeds and profits derivable therefrom among the enrolled members. And may, for sufficient cause, disenroll and remove any member from the Labour Settlement, and may include therein any new member.

(ii) The Board may, subject to the approval of the Minister for Lands, grant a sub-lease of any land vested in it to any enrolled member at such rent, and subject to such conditions and for such term as it may think fit, and as the Minister may approve, with a right of renewal for such further term as the Board may recommend and the Minister may approve. Such lease shall only be assigned or sublet with the permission of the Board, and to a person enrolled in the same Labour Settlement.

Regulations may be made by Governor.

8. The Governor may make regulations—

- (a) Prescribing the class of persons to be enrolled in a Labour Settlement, and the priorities in which their applications are to be considered.
- (b) Prescribing the accounts to be kept by Boards of Control of moneys received and expended by them.
- (c) Concerning the duties of Boards as defined in this Act.

(d)

Newcastle Friendly Societies and Trades Halls.

(d) Concerning such other matters as may be found necessary or desirable for the purposes of this Act.

And, on publication in the *Gazette*, such regulations shall have the force of law.

9. A Board may make regulations concerning—

(a) The quorum necessary, the election of a Chairman, and the conduct of business at its meetings.

(b) The work to be done in the settlement including the surrounding thereof with a substantial fence, and the apportionment of the work among the members, and the equitable distribution of wages, profits, and emoluments among the members after providing for the cost of their maintenance.

(c) The collection, spending, and application of moneys.

(d) The cleanliness, good order, and government of the settlement.

And may impose a penalty not exceeding two pounds for a breach of any of these regulations, to be recovered in a summary way before any Court of Petty Sessions. All regulations (whether under this or the preceding section) on being approved by the Governor and published in the *Gazette* shall have the force of law, provided that a copy of any such regulations shall be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament without unreasonable delay.

10. In this Act the word "Governor" means the Governor Interpretation, with the advice of the Executive Council.