

1932.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS

(REPORT ON) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1932, TOGETHER WITH SCHEDULE SHOWING
AGGREGATE AREA OF LAND EXCLUDED FROM THE ENDOWMENT.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 302 of the Land Act, 1924.

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st August, 1932.

I have the honour to submit herewith report upon the national endowment, showing also the aggregate areas of land excluded therefrom, and the aggregate area made freehold, &c., for the year ended 31st March, 1932.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON,

Under-Secretary for Lands.

The Hon. E. A. Ransom, Minister of Lands.

REPORT.

THE national endowment was established by the National Endowment Act, 1907, as a permanent endowment for the purposes of education and old-age pensions. This enactment, which is now Part VII of the Land Act, 1924, set apart an area of 7,000,000 acres in the various land districts of the Dominion as the nucleus of the endowment, and provided that until a total area of 9,000,000 acres would be reached all Crown lands then or thereafter held on renewable lease, or on small-grazing-run lease under the Land Act, 1892, or the Land Act, 1908, were to become part of the national endowment.

On the 11th November, 1920, the date of the passing of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1920, it was enacted by section 11 thereof that no lands were thereafter to become part of the national endowment. The prescribed maximum area was reached during the year ended 31st March, 1920.

Section 302 of the Land Act, 1924, provides that the Governor-General may, by Proclamation approved in Executive Council, declare that any unoccupied national-endowment land not exceeding in the aggregate 20,000 acres shall cease to be national endowment.

Land removed from the national endowment under the aforesaid provisions can be set apart for selection as inferior lands under the provisions of section 223 of the Act.

The owners of renewable leases or small-grazing-run leases over national-endowment lands, or of regulation licenses for the occupation of pastoral lands in the said endowment within mining districts, now have the right to acquire the fee-simple on the conditions provided by the Act pertaining to each class of lease.

On the disposal of any national-endowment land by way of sale, or on the acquisition of the fee-simple of any such land, the Governor-General may by Proclamation declare that such lands shall, as from a date specified in the Proclamation, cease to be national-endowment land, and every Proclamation shall have effect according to its tenor.

Section 279 of the Land Act, 1924, further provides that where any national-endowment land is held under a pastoral license for a term of not less than fourteen years, of which not less than seven years have expired, and the Board is of opinion that the land comprised in the license is not more than sufficient for the maintenance of the lessee and his family, a Proclamation may likewise be issued declaring that the land shall cease to be national endowment, and prescribes the manner in which the fee-simple may be acquired. Pastoral runs thus dealt with are included in the aggregate figures appended.

By section 18 of the Finance Act, 1930 (No. 2), the National Endowment Account established as a separate account under section 295 of the Land Act, 1924, was abolished, and provision made whereby the revenues from the endowment are now paid to the credit of the Consolidated Fund. Such revenues are now applied out of that Fund for the purposes of education and old-age pensions.

By section 12 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1930, the National Endowment Trust Account established under section 302 (10) of the Land Act, 1924, was abolished, and provision made whereby all capital receipts derived from the sale of national-endowment lands are now paid into the Land for Settlements Account.

In accordance with subsections (15) and (16) of section 302 of the Land Act, 1924, figures are appended giving particulars prescribed for the period from the 11th November, 1920, the date of the passing of the legislation, to the 31st March, 1932. During the year ended 31st March, 1932, a total area of 580 acres was removed from the national endowment on the application of the lessees, while some 10,416 acres reverted to national endowment.

SCHEDULE.

- (a) Aggregate area excluded from national endowment, 108,924 acres; capital value, £95,768.
- (b) Aggregate area so excluded of which fee-simple has been acquired at the 31st March 1932, 38,763 acres.
- (c) Aggregate area so excluded and still held under lease or license at the 31st March, 1932, 70,116 acres; annual rental, £4,596.
- (d) Aggregate area so excluded and not disposed of by way of sale or lease, 45 acres.
- (e) Area of land purchased by the Crown out of moneys in the National Endowment Trust Account, 289 acres.

The total area comprised in the national endowment at the 31st March, 1932, was approximately 8,975,000 acres. Of this an area of 6,524,328 acres was held under lease or license by 4,470 tenants, the annual rental payable being £141,401, while a very large area (partly, however, covered by existing leases) had been set aside as provisional State forests. The total revenue derived from the endowment during the year was £76,983.

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