



and subject to rearrest without charge at any time. Anyone seeking their freedom was committing an offence, and an accompanying Indemnity Act covered pakeha people committing offences while dealing with the Taranaki "difficulties".

Native Lands Administration Act 1886 — This Act provided for Maori land to be held by trustees, who could sell it against the rights of communal owners. The Government used this Act to buy land and sell or lease it to farmers at nominal rentals.

Native Land Purchase and Acquisition Act 1893 — The Crown's right of pre-emption was revived, and the Crown was given new authority to declare any Maori land "suitable for settlement". Maori owners, especially at Parihaka, who resisted these moves, were controlled by force of arms.

Land Settlement Act 1904 — Any land "not required or suitable for occupation by the Maori owners" could be compulsorily placed under the control of land councils with no Maori representation.

Public Works Act 1928 — The Government could take land for many purposes, such as subdivision, development, "better utilisation", forestry and recreation. Maori owners were supposed to be advised of impending confiscation, but failure to do so did not invalidate the action. Compensation was assessed by the Crown. Particularly galling to Maori owners was seeing their land, taken for "public works," later sold or given to pakeha people or organisations when the Government decided not to use it, or no longer needed it.

Maori Affairs Act 1953 — This Act set up the Maori Affairs Department to act as a Maori land-buying agent for the Crown. Maori land considered uneconomic could be compulsorily bought for what the state valued it at. The Maori Trustee could buy Maori land worth less than \$100 without the owner's permission, and use it as he saw fit. Any land which could not be or was not developed could be used or developed by someone else if the Trustee

so decided. Local authorities could apply to have unused land taken over by the Trustee, and it could be leased at unimproved value, and the owners would have to pay compensation for improvements. If they couldn't, they lost title to the land. In this way commercial forestry made large inroads on to Maori land until land interests began to be pooled in incorporations.

Maori Affairs Amendment Act 1967 — This Act opened the membership of incorporation trust boards to non-owners. It allowed the Maori Trustee to become a member and seek sales to the Crown from individual owners. When enough shares were obtained, the land could be freehold for sale. Any land owned by fewer than four people had to be changed into individual title and could not be incorporated until this was done. Such land could be forfeited to the Crown if this process was not completed by the appointed date, which was, however, later postponed. Maori owners either individualised their titles or had their land confiscated.

by **Charlton Clark**