
[Assented to 13th October, 1893.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to promote and encourage settlement by co-operative communities upon the Crown lands of the Colony: 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 Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act shall be read and construed with "The Crown Lands Acts, 1884 to 1892," and so far as the provisions of this Act are contrary to the provisions of those Acts, as an amendment thereof, but "The Crown Lands Acts, 1884 to 1892," shall not be affected by this Act to any greater extent than is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

This Act may be cited as "The Co-operative Communities Land Settlement Act of 1893."

2. This Act is divided in Parts as follows:—

PART I.—PRELIMINARY;
PART II.—SELF-GOVERNING COMMUNITIES;
PART III.—LABOUR COLONIES;
PART IV.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

3. The following terms shall, in this Act, unless the context otherwise indicate, bear the several meanings here set against them respectively:—

"Principal Act"—"The Crown Lands Act of 1884," as amended by any subsequent Act;
"Area"
Co-operative Communities Land Settlement Act.

"Area"—A portion of Crown lands set apart for the purposes of a group;
"Period"—The term of years for which an area is set apart;
"Group"—An association of persons for co-operative land settlement under the provisions of this Act;
"Rules"—The rules of a group;
"Member"—One of the persons composing the group;
"Contentious Proceedings"—Proceedings by action in a court of law;
"Certificate"—A certificate issued by the Minister having the effect of a lease and creating a further period.

"Secretary"—The senior member for the time being of a group, as set forth in the eighth section of this Act, or the Secretary, Treasurer, or any other principal officer of a group which has been registered as a specially authorised Friendly Society.

PART II.—SELF-GOVERNING COMMUNITIES.

4. Whenever any male persons, not being less than thirty in number, each of whom is eligible to apply for and hold land under the provisions of Part IV. of "The Crown Lands Act of 1884," have associated themselves together for the purpose of co-operative land settlement, they may apply (by a writing signed by all such persons) to the Minister to be recognised as a "Group," under a name stated, which shall not be the name of any then already recognised and still existent group, and upon depositing with the Minister a copy of the rules of the group, signed by every member thereof, they may be recognised by the Minister as a group. Every group, the original rules of which prohibit the acquisition of freehold of any portion of the land so set apart by such group or its members, shall have as the last words of the name thereof the words "perpetual lease."

5. No person who is not a natural born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, within the meaning of "The Elections Act of 1885," and has not continuously resided in Queensland for the twelve months preceding his application, shall become or be a member of a group.

6. No person shall at the same time be eligible to be a member of more than one group. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that any person has obtained or attempted to obtain membership in more than one group at the same time, the Minister shall cause the name of such person to be erased from the list of members of any group, and such person shall thereupon immediately cease to be a member of any group, and shall be incapable of being a member of any group for a period of five years thereafter.

7. No person having ceased to be a member shall, within two years thereafter, become or attempt to become, a member of another group, or participate or attempt to participate in the benefits thereof without the sanction of the Minister previously had and obtained. Any person offending against this section shall be liable on summary conviction to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding six months, nor less than three months, with or without hard labour.

8. The member whose name from time to time appears first upon the copy of the rules deposited with the Minister, shall be entitled the secretary of the group, and to him all communications upon
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upon the affairs of the group shall be addressed by the Minister, and notice to him shall be notice to each and every member. Provided that after the original list of members is exhausted the member for the time being first in order of admission to membership shall be the secretary of the group.

If any alteration is from time to time made in such rules, a copy of such alteration, signed by all the members of the group, shall in like manner be deposited with the Minister within one month from the making thereof.

If any new member is from time to time admitted into a group Rules, he shall, by a writing signed by him in the presence of and attested by a justice of the peace, declare his adhesion and consent to the then existing rules of the group, and such writing shall be deposited with the Minister.

If any member desires to withdraw from a group he shall, Withdrawal, by a like writing, intimate the same to the Minister, and upon such writing reaching the Minister, he shall cease to be a member, and the Minister shall forthwith communicate the same to the secretary.

If a notice of the expulsion of any member, signed by at least two-thirds of the remaining members, is received by the Minister from the secretary attested by him, the membership of the person thereby affected shall, as soon as the notice reaches the Minister, absolutely cease and determine.

9. The rules and amended rules, and the list of members, which Rules (evidence of), are at any time in the possession of the Minister, shall be for the time being the rules and the list of the members of the group, and shall be conclusive evidence thereof.

The Minister shall from time to time, and at all times, keep and preserve the rules, amendments, and declarations of adherence and consent, and of withdrawal and expulsion, so deposited with him, and shall permit any person at all reasonable times to inspect and take copies thereof or extracts therefrom without payment of any fee.

10. The persons who have associated themselves together may, May be registered as before they apply to the Minister to be recognised as a group, or as a specially authorised Friendly Society:

any time after such recognition by a resolution duly passed in accordance with the then existing rules of the group, cause themselves to be registered as a Friendly Society under "The Friendly Societies Act 1876" as a specially authorised society; and upon such registration the eighth section of this Act shall cease to have any effect as to the group so registered, excepting as to any right accruing to or liability incurred by any member at the time of such registration.

Provided that the Registrar of Friendly Societies shall not register any group as a Friendly Society unless and until he is satisfied that the resolution hereinbefore referred to has been duly passed, and that every member of the proposed society is a person competent to apply for and hold land under the provisions of Part IV. of "The Crown Lands Act of 1884," and no person who is not so competent shall be eligible to become a member of any such society. Every such registration shall be reported by him forthwith to the Minister; and with such report he shall transmit to the Minister a copy of the rules of the society duly certified by him, and further from time to time transmit a like copy of any amendment of a rule. All such registrations, rules, and amendments shall be duly recorded by the Minister.

11. Nothing
11. Nothing contained in “The Companies Acts, 1863 to 1892,” shall invalidate or render illegal the association of more than twenty persons in a group for the purposes of this Act; but it shall not be lawful for any group to convert itself into a company under “The Companies Act 1863,” or to amalgamate with any such company.

12. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, by proclamation, to set apart an area for the purposes of any group, not exceeding a total acreage calculated at the rate of one hundred and sixty acres for each member, but an additional area of land may be included in the proclamation in order to make provision for roads.

13. Such proclamation shall specify and define—

(1) The name of the group;
(2) The names of persons included therein;
(3) The boundaries and description of the area, and the average number of acres of which the members and each of them will be permitted to acquire the freehold at the expiration of the period;
(4) The improvements to be made upon the whole of the area as hereinafter provided;
(5) The period for which the area is set apart, the rent (if any) during the period to be paid by the group, and whether to be accounted or not as part of the purchasing price, and the price per acre, if any, to be paid by the members at the end of the period for the acquisition by them of the freehold of the area or any part thereof: Provided that no area shall be set apart for a period longer than twelve, nor less than six years;
(6) The respective times at which inspections of the improvements are to be made during the period as hereinafter provided;
(7) Such further particulars or conditions as the Governor in Council may see fit to specify or impose.

14. If the Minister has reason to believe that the number of members of any group has fallen below thirty, or below two-thirds of the highest number which it ever attained, whichever shall be the larger number, he may, by a registered post letter addressed to the secretary, call upon the group to show cause why it should not be dissolved and the proclamation setting apart the area revoked. Such letter shall specify a place and a time, not being less than three months from the date of the posting thereof, at which such cause is to be shown.

If at the time and place appointed no appearance is made on behalf of the group, or cause to the contrary shown to the satisfaction of the Minister, the group may be dissolved by the Minister, and the proclamation setting apart the area forthwith revoked.

In such event the improvements upon the area may be sold by the Minister to any person, who shall become the licensee, lessee, or purchaser of the land in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Act, or to any other group to which the area may be subsequently assigned.

15. Within three months after the issue of a proclamation, at least one-half of the members must enter upon the area and take possession thereof, and thereafter during the period the area must be continuously and bona fide occupied and improved by the group in the manner hereinafter provided.

16. The
16. The whole term of the period shall be divided into four equal portions of time, and during each of such portions the sum of at least two shillings and sixpence per acre shall be expended by the group in substantial and permanent improvements on the area.

If at the expiration of any one or more of such portions of time the Minister is not satisfied that such improvements have been effected, he may, by a writing signed by himself or by some person by his direction, and sent to the secretary in a registered post letter, give notice that such improvements have not been effected.

If all improvements which should have been effected at the expiration of the then next succeeding portion of time are not so effected, or if the group fails at any time in regard to the performance of the condition of occupation, the proclamation setting apart the area may be rescinded, and the group or any member thereof remaining upon such area shall be deemed to be in unlawful occupation of Crown lands.

17. The conditions of occupation and improvement shall be sufficiently performed if at all times during the period not less than one-half of the whole number of the members of the group are bona fide resident upon the area, and if the improvements required by this Act are made upon any part of the area: Provided that if the Minister is of opinion that the improvements, or any part thereof, are not being made for the purpose of co-operative land settlement, he may give notice in the manner prescribed by the last preceding section of this Act that such improvements will not be allowed for or included in the improvements required by this Act.

18. During the period no member shall have any individual interest or property in the improvements made upon the area, but the same shall be vested in and be the property of the Minister; and in all actions, proceedings, informations, and complaints relating to or in anywise concerning an area and the improvements thereon, it shall be sufficient to name and describe the Minister as the "Secretary for Lands and Agriculture" without any further or other name, addition, or description whatsoever.

19. The rules shall provide for the settlement of disputes of a civil nature only among the members arising out of the affairs of an area by arbitration and umpirage of the remaining members or some of them not being less than three, and any member refusing or neglecting to submit to or comply with such arbitration or umpirage, or who shall resort or attempt to resort to any contentious proceedings for the settlement of any such dispute of a civil nature, shall thereby ipso facto cease to be a member: Provided always that any such award and umpirage may be enforced in the manner prescribed by "The Courts of Conciliation Act of 1892": Provided further that no member shall incur any disability by resorting to proceedings under "The Courts of Conciliation Act of 1892."

20. Whenever in an area at the expiration of the period the prescribed conditions of occupation and improvement have been duly performed, the then members may apply to the Minister to become purchasers of the area, and upon the Minister being satisfied that the prescribed conditions have been duly performed, and on payment at the Treasury or other place appointed by the Governor in Council of the price, if any, stated in the proclamation, and deed fee and assurance fee, in the name or names of any of the members, each of such
such members shall be entitled to a deed of grant in fee-simple of so much land, being part of the area, as was specified in the proclamation in that behalf: Provided that payment of the purchase money or rent may be made by Land Orders issued to any of the members under "The Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1886."

21. The Governor in Council may, in the name of Her Majesty, grant in fee-simple any Crown lands within the Colony of Queensland, being portions of an area which in manner hereinafter prescribed have been allotted to the respective members, and such grants may be made either with or without payment of any price as was in either behalf prescribed by the proclamation setting apart the area.

22. The provisions of the two preceding sections shall not extend to or apply in favour of any group, the original rules of which prohibit the acquisition of freehold by such group or its members.

23. The division and allocation of the area among the members shall be made and decided by themselves, and the necessary surveys shall be made at their expense by such surveyor as the Minister may approve, and the result shall be certified to the Minister by the secretary; but if the secretary or any member shall inform the Minister that the members are unable to agree upon a division and allocation, the Minister shall direct the Commissioner to convene a meeting of the members, upon reasonable notice, to be held on the area, and to endeavour to mediate between and bring them to an amicable arrangement. If he fails to do so, he shall report such failure to the Minister, who shall thereupon direct him to hold a Court at a given time and place for the final division and allocation of the area among the members.

24. Upon receiving such direction the Commissioner shall, by reasonable notice, require the members to appoint an assessor to represent them, and to certify the name of such assessor to him under the hand of the secretary.

If within ten days from the giving of such notice an assessor is so appointed, the Commissioner and the assessor shall choose a second assessor, who shall not be a member, and the Commissioner and the two assessors shall constitute the Court.

If the members fail to appoint an assessor, or if the Commissioner and the assessor fail to agree upon the appointment of a second assessor, the Commissioner shall submit the facts to the Minister, and the Minister shall thereupon appoint two assessors, neither of whom shall be a member of the group, and the decision of the Court so constituted shall, after it has been confirmed by the Minister, be absolute and final.

25. Every Court so held shall be presided over by the Commissioner, and shall have all the powers conferred upon a Commissioner's Court by the twenty-sixth section of "The Crown Lands Act of 1896."

26. If at any Court the Commissioner differs in opinion from both the assessors with respect to any matter then before the Court for decision, the determination of the matter in difference shall be adjourned for a period of not less than twenty-four hours. If the Commissioner and one of the assessors shall not then agree thereon, the
the matter of difference shall be determined by the Minister after the Commissioner shall have reported to him his reasons for differing in opinion from both the assessors.

27. No party to any proceeding before any such Court, or to any arbitration proceeding under the provisions of this Act, shall be represented by any legal adviser, but may be represented by an agent who is not a practising barrister or solicitor, or the clerk of either, appointed under his hand, attested by the Commissioner or by a justice of the peace.

In adjudicating and deciding upon the final division and allocation of the area among the members the Court shall have regard to—

(1) Equity and good conscience;
(2) The reasonable wishes of the parties to the proceedings;
(3) The existing allocation and division of the area among the members as to cultivation and fencing;
(4) The rights and conveniences of access to roads and to permanent water;
(5) The situation of the buildings, dams, and so forth upon the area.

28. Notwithstanding anything contained in the proclamation setting apart the area, or in the twentieth section of this Act, the members, the Court, or the Minister may, if they are of opinion that the land of any area is not of uniform quality, allot unequal portions thereof to the several members of any group.

29. For the purpose of conserving or giving access to water or to any improvements which have been made by and for the use of the whole of the members or for any of the purposes set forth in the ninety-fifth section of “The Crown Lands Act of 1884,” the Court may recommend suitable reserves, and for that purpose may, if necessary, reduce pro rata the acreage of the land allotted to the members.

30. The decision of the Court after it has been pronounced in open Court shall be forwarded to the Minister without delay by the Commissioner in writing, signed by him and by the two assessors: Provided that if either of the assessors dissent from the decision or from any part thereof such dissent shall be appended to the decision and signed by him.

31. The rights and liabilities of the members as to all matters involving trespass, impounding, and fencing shall be those of the licensee or lessee of an agricultural farm, provided always that each and every member may exercise any such right of impounding upon every part of the area as if such area was one such agricultural farm of which he was the licensee or lessee.

32. In any of the following events, that is to say, death, habitual absence from the area for a period exceeding twelve months, insanity within the meaning of “The Insanity Act of 1884,” withdrawal or expulsion from the group, the membership of any person affected thereby shall absolutely cease and determine, and the Minister shall thereupon from time to time, if he receives a written certificate from the secretary that any person eligible
eligible to become a member has been duly elected by the group, appoint such person, and if he does not within one month from the happening of such vacancy receive such a certificate, he may, in manner hereinafter prescribed, appoint some fit and proper person to such vacant membership, by an instrument, in triplicate, under his hand, one part to be given to the person so appointed, another transmitted to the secretary, and the third retained by the Minister:

Provided that the Minister shall not make any such appointment until he shall have satisfied himself by due inquiry or otherwise that such vacancy exists, nor until one month's notice has been given to the secretary of the name of the person proposed to be appointed, and if during such period of one month a protest against such proposed appointment, signed by at least two-thirds of the members, is received by the Minister from the secretary, attested by him, such proposed appointment shall not be made: Provided that in making any such appointment the Minister shall be guided by equity and good conscience, and by a due regard, as far as may be, to the wishes or supposed wishes of the deceased member.

33. Subject to the provisions of this Act, and of any regulations made thereunder, the Governor may, by warrant under his hand addressed to the Treasurer, direct him to advance to any group, by way of loan, out of any moneys appropriated by Parliament for that purpose, such sums as the Governor in Council may think fit, for the assistance and sustenance of such group, and for the furtherance of their settlement upon the area assigned to them. The Treasurer shall from time to time be allowed credit for any sum or sums of money paid by him in pursuance of any such warrant, and the receipt of the secretary under his hand shall be sufficient discharge to the Treasurer.

Such advances may be made in the form of money, food, tools and implements of agriculture, materials for providing shelter, or in such other form as may be prescribed by the regulations, and shall be expended and used in such manner and under such superintendence as may be so prescribed: Provided that no advance shall be made to any group which shall exceed as to its total amount in money and otherwise a sum of twenty pounds for each and every member thereof.

34. It shall also be lawful in like manner, out of any moneys so appropriated, to advance to the wife of any member, for the support of herself and of the children of such member being under the age of sixteen years, at any place within an area, any money or value for money not exceeding in the whole fifteen shillings per week for each such family for a period not exceeding twenty-six consecutive weeks, and any money or value for money so advanced shall be an individual debt of such member in the same manner as, but in addition to, any liability which he may otherwise incur as a member of a group.

The repayment of such advances shall be made at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations or specially set forth in variation thereof by the proclamation.

35. An account shall be kept by the Treasurer, in such form and under such denomination as the Governor in Council shall direct, of the advances made under this Act to any group, and such advances, or the amount thereof from time to time remaining unpaid, shall bear interest computed with quarterly rests, to be made on the first days of January, April, July, and October in each year, at such rate as the Governor in Council shall from time to time determine:

Provided
Provided that the Governor in Council may dispense with the calculation and payment of interest, or of any part thereof, if he shall in his discretion see fit to do so.

36. A certificate, in writing, signed by the Colonial Treasurer, of the amount appearing by such account to be due for such advances and interest, shall be præm facie evidence that the amount stated in such certificate is actually due, and that all acts and conditions precedent to the right of recovery of the amount thereof from the group, and from all persons liable to pay the same, have been duly performed and fulfilled.

37. The amount due upon such account shall be a Crown debt due to Her Majesty the Queen by such group and the members thereof, and payment thereof may be enforced against the assets of such group in priority to all other creditors, and such payment may also be enforced against all or any of its members, but to the extent only as to each member of an amount to be ascertained by dividing the total amount due upon such account by the group, by the number of the members thereof at the time when payment of such amount is enforced or commenced to be enforced.

38. If at any time, not being more than twelve nor less than three months before the expiration of any period, whether originally created or renewed as hereinafter provided, the secretary in writing informs the Minister that the group have decided not to subdivide the area in manner hereinbefore prescribed, the Minister shall, if he is satisfied that all improvements and other conditions precedent to the division of the area have been duly performed, grant a certificate, which shall have the effect of a lease, that the area has again been set apart for a further period not exceeding ten years.

39. The rental to be payable in advance by the group, and to be set forth in such certificate, shall be a yearly sum calculated at the rate of five pounds per centum upon the fair unimproved capital value of the land of the area at the commencement of each period in respect of which a certificate is granted, and such valuation shall be revised and may be increased by the Minister at the end of each and every five years of each and every period excepting the first period: Provided that no increase in the valuation shall be made at any revision thereof to an extent greater than one-half of the next preceding valuation.

40. The payment of the rent reserved by any proclamation or set forth in any such certificate or otherwise under the provisions of this Act shall commence from the first day of January or the first day of July nearest to the date thereof.

41. The conditions of the payment of such rent and the consequences of the non-payment thereof shall, unless otherwise stated in the certificate, be those set forth in the third and fifth subsections of the fifty-eighth section of "The Crown Lands Act of 1884" and the third subsection of the third section of "The Crown Lands Acts 1884 to 1886 Amendment Act of 1889."

42. If application to purchase the area is made by the group at any later time than the termination of the first or original period set forth in the proclamation, the purchase money shall be a sum bearing the same proportion to the price set forth in the proclamation as the rent payable at the time of the application to purchase bears to the rent specified in the first certificate issued in respect of the area.
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Payment by land orders.

43. Payment of any such rent or purchase money may be made in the manner set forth in the twentieth section of this Act.

Commencement of rating and powers of local authority.

44. From and after the expiration of three years from the commencement of the first period, every area shall be rateable land according to the then existing law for the purposes of the local authority of the district, but in respect of any default committed by the group in respect of such rating, or of any non-payment of rates, the land of the area shall not be liable to any power of sale, lease, or encumbrance which might otherwise be exercised by the local authority; but, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act contained, the local authority may exercise all other powers conferred upon them by law for the recovery of rates, and for all purposes both of rating and recovery the area shall be deemed to be one holding and the group to be one occupier of an agricultural farm.

Part III.—Labour Colonies.

45. The Governor in Council, by proclamation, from time to time set apart and appropriate as a labour colony under this Part blocks of Crown lands not exceeding ten thousand acres in extent, and may at any time revoke any such proclamation.

Such proclamation may state that such lands shall or shall not be liable to rating by the Local Authority of the district within which they are situated, and such lands shall or shall not be liable to such rating accordingly.

Any blocks of land so set apart and appropriated shall vest in trustees when appointed as hereinafter provided, and such trustees shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, hold such land in trust for use and maintenance as a labour colony under this Part.

46. Five trustees shall be appointed by the Governor in Council for each labour colony, and any trustee may from time to time by him be removed and another trustee appointed in his place.

The Governor in Council may at any time accept the resignation of any trustee, and his place shall thereupon become vacant.

47. The Minister shall appoint a time and place for the first meeting of the trustees of each labour colony, and thereafter they shall meet when and as often as they think fit.

The powers of the trustees may be exercised by any three of them.

48. The trustees of each labour colony, after a day to be determined in each case by the Minister, shall admit into such colony any man who in their opinion is unable to support himself otherwise, and such man shall be entitled to such benefits as the rules of such colony may prescribe so long as he complies with the rules and discipline thereof, unless in the opinion of the trustees he is not of good character or repute.

49. The trustees of each labour colony shall establish, maintain, manage, and conduct such colony, and for such purposes they may appoint and dismiss all necessary officers and servants, and so far as their funds permit shall have all powers and authorities necessary to enable them to improve such colony and make the same self-supporting.

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The trustees of each colony may establish and manage any trade or industry in such colony, and dispose of the proceeds thereof, provided that the whole of the profits thereof are paid into a trust account as hereinafter provided.

50. Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any regulations made thereunder, the Governor may, by warrant under his hand addressed to the Treasurer, direct him to pay to the trustees of any labour colony for the maintenance thereof, out of any moneys generally appropriated by Parliament for such purposes, such sum as the Governor in Council may think fit, not exceeding one thousand pounds, either unconditionally or to the extent of two pounds for every pound received by the trustees thereof from public or private subscription for the like purpose.

51. All moneys received by the trustees as aforesaid, and all profits arising from such labour colonies, shall be paid to the credit of a trust account in some bank in Queensland regulated by law, in the name of the labour colony which such trustees are conducting. All moneys so paid into such trust account may be expended by the trustees—

(a) In the payment of allowances for work to persons employed in such labour colonies, and of allowances for support to the families of such persons dependent upon them and residing at places outside such labour colonies;
(b) In the erection, construction, and making of any necessary buildings, erections, works, and conveniences in connection with such labour colonies and in the maintenance thereof;
(c) In purchasing provisions, clothing, building materials, stock, seed, agricultural implements, tools, and all things necessary for the proper working of the labour colony, and generally for carrying out the provisions of this Part of the Act.

52. (1.) The accounts of the trustees of each labour colony shall once in every six months at least, and oftener if the Governor in Council direct, and at such time as the Minister appoints, be audited by two persons, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor in Council and one by the trustees, who shall be paid fees out of the said trust account at such rate as the Governor in Council may direct.

(2.) A balance-sheet showing the revenue and expenditure, certified to by such auditors, shall be prepared by the trustees and forwarded by them once in every six months to the Minister, who shall cause the same to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

53. The trustees of each labour colony, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may, pursuant to this Part, make rules for the conduct of such colony for—

(a) The collection, spending, and application of moneys;
(b) The rate of allowances for work to be paid to persons employed, and to the families of such persons dependent upon them for support;
(c) The cleanliness, good order, and health of the labour colony;
(d) The maintenance of order and discipline;
The punishment for breaches of rules, provided that no pecuniary penalty for the breach of any rule shall exceed two pounds;

And generally for the better carrying out of the purposes and provisions of this Part, whether hereinbefore specifically authorised or not; but no such rules shall contain matter contrary to this Act or any other law in force in Queensland, and when approved shall have the force of law.

PART IV.—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

54. No action or proceeding shall be maintained against the Minister for anything done or omitted to be done by the Minister or any Commissioner or other officer in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

55. Every proclamation issued under the authority of this Act shall have the force of law notwithstanding that the conditions of acreage, residence, price, or improvement, or any of them set forth therein, may be contrary to any or all of the provisions of the Principal Act.

56. The Governor in Council may from time to time, by his proclamation, make regulations for all or any of the matters following, that is to say—

1. Defining the surveyors to be employed, and the survey fees which shall be payable, in respect of any area or holding applied for, surveyed, or subdivided under this Act;

2. Providing for the due carrying out of the provisions of this Act;

3. Defining the mode of doing and performing anything by this Act required to be done or performed;

4. Prescribing the form of instruments to be issued or used under or for the purposes of this Act;

5. Authorising, forbidding, or regulating the cutting of timber upon or its removal from areas set apart under this Act;

6. Extending the time during which under this Act any notice required thereby may be given or received, or any proceeding taken or entered upon;

7. All other matters and things that may be necessary to give effect to this Act.

Such regulations, not being contrary to the provisions of this Act, shall have the force of law.

A copy of all such regulations shall be laid before Parliament within fourteen days from the proclamation thereof, if Parliament is then sitting, and if it is not then sitting, within fourteen days from the commencement of the next session.

Any person who wilfully offends against the provisions of the regulations shall, unless herein otherwise provided, be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

57. The Minister shall cause a report to be laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament within one month after the thirtieth day of June in each and every year, giving full information as to all proceedings under any of the provisions of this Act during the last financial year.