An Act to Facilitate the Acquisition of Agricultural Homesteads by certain Bodies of Settlers.

[Assented to 17th December, 1901.]

WHEREAS it is desirable to promote closer settlement upon the pastoral, agricultural lands of Queensland by affording to bodies of settlers special facilities for the acquisition of Agricultural Homesteads to be held in conjunction with portions in adjacent Agricultural Townships: Be it therefore enacted by the King'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:

1. This Act may be cited as "The Special Agricultural Homestead Act of 1901," and shall be read and construed with and as an amendment of "The Land Act, 1897," hereinafter called the Principal Act.

2. (1) The Governor in Council may from time to time, by proclamation, declare any unoccupied country lands to be open for selection as Agricultural Homesteads under the provisions of this Act by members of the body of settlers in the proclamation specified.

   Notwithstanding the provisions of section eighty-three of the Principal Act, such proclamation need not also declare the lands mentioned therein to be also open for selection as Agricultural Farms.
No Agricultural Homestead to be selected under the provisions of this Act shall exceed three hundred and twenty acres.

Such lands shall remain open for selection under the provisions of this Act for a period of three months and no longer.

During such period of three months such lands shall be open to be selected only by persons who shall, at the time and in the manner prescribed, furnish to the Commissioner for the District in which the lands are situated proof that they are members of the body of settlers for whom such lands have been set apart.

(2.) No person shall at the same time apply for or hold two or more Homesteads under the provisions of this Act the aggregate area of which is greater than three hundred and twenty acres.

(3.) The Governor in Council may by proclamation set apart any Crown lands in the said District as Agricultural Townships, and may cause the whole or any part of such lands to be subdivided into portions for purposes of residence. Such lands shall be in the vicinity of the lands open for selection as Agricultural Homesteads under the foregoing provisions.

The area of any portion shall not exceed ten acres.

Any selector of a Homestead under the provisions of this Act shall also be entitled to one of the portions in an Agricultural Township, which portion shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a part of the Homestead so that the condition of occupation may be performed by the residence of the selector either upon the Homestead or upon the portion in the Township.

The area of the portion in the Township shall not, however, be taken into consideration in estimating the maximum area which a selector may apply for or hold.

(1.) In order that the selector may become the purchaser of the Homestead, the certificate of the Commissioner given under section one hundred and thirty-eight of the Principal Act must show that a sum at the rate of ten shillings per acre has been expended in substantial and permanent improvements on the land.

The value of any improvements made upon the portion in the Township shall be reckoned as part of the improvements required to be made upon the Homestead.

3. The Governor in Council may make Regulations prescribing the manner in which applicants for Agricultural Homesteads under the provisions of this Act shall give proof of their qualification to become selectors, and prescribing such other matters and things as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act.