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# VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

A.D. 1895.

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## No. 627.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Village Settlements, "The Exchange of Lands and Reduction of Rents Act, 1894," and the Act 584 of 1893.

*[Assented to, December 20th, 1895.]*

**B**E it enacted by the Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the said Province, in this present Parliament assembled, as follows :

**1.** This Act may be cited as "The Village Settlements and Reduction of Rents Amendment Act, 1895." Short title.

**2.** The sum of not exceeding Fifty Pounds in the aggregate for every villager which the Commissioner of Crown Lands (hereinafter called the Commissioner) is authorised by section 60 of "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1893," to advance to any one Village Association is hereby increased to One Hundred Pounds: Provided that the total advances which may be made by the Commissioner to the associations heretofore registered shall not exceed Fifty Thousand Pounds. Increase of amount authorised to be advanced to Village Associations to One Hundred Pounds.  
  
Total amount of advances.

**3.** No advances shall be made to any association until its village shall have been proclaimed in the manner provided by sections 47 and 48 of "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1893." Advances to be made after proclamation.

**4.** The Commissioner shall, within two months after the publication of the proclamation constituting a village, issue to every association whose village shall be so proclaimed a lease in terms of section 51 of the said Act. Lease to be issued after proclamation.

**5.** Every

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Documents furnished to Commissioner open to public inspection.

**5.** Every memorandum to be filed for the purposes of forming an association, and every copy of the rules of the association referred to in section 44 of the said Act, and all the accounts of the association rendered to the Commissioner, shall be open to public inspection on payment of Two Shillings for every such inspection.

Powers of Commissioner.

**6.** The Commissioner shall have the following powers with respect to Village Associations whilst any advances shall remain unpaid—

- i. He may expel from any association any villager who has become liable to expulsion under the rules of the association: Provided that this power shall only be exercised in cases where notice shall have been given by the Commissioner to the trustees requiring the expulsion of the villager under the rules, and default shall have been made in such expulsion for at least fourteen days after such notice:
- ii. He may control and direct the expenditure of any moneys advanced to associations:
- iii. He may call upon any trustee of any association to retire from office in any case where, in his opinion, it is desirable for the welfare of the association that such trustee should so retire, and such trustee shall retire accordingly:
- iv. He may require any association to increase the number of villagers so that such number shall not be less than the number who signed the rules first registered in the office of the Commissioner, and, if any such requisition is not complied with within six calendar months after the date of service of such requisition upon the association, may cancel the lease to such association.

Limit to increases of villagers.

**7.** The total number of villagers shall not be increased at any time under the preceding section beyond five hundred.

Expulsion of villagers.

**8.** A majority of the villagers present at any meeting held to consider any appeal by any villager against his expulsion by the Board of Trustees may annul such expulsion; but in the event of the expulsion not being annulled the villager may, within fourteen days from the date of the meeting, appeal to the Commissioner, who may annul or confirm such expulsion, and his decision shall be final.

Order of retirement of trustees.

**9.** One half only of the trustees of any Village Association shall retire from office every half-year where the number of trustees is even, and where the number is uneven a majority of one of such trustees only shall so retire. The trustees to so retire shall be those longest in office without re-election; and where the number cannot thus be made up lots shall be drawn between those who have been an equal time in office to decide which of them shall so retire, and the retirement shall take place accordingly.

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**10.** The time for the repayment of the first instalment of advances made to any association is extended to five years from the date of the advance. First instalments.

**11.** The Governor may, by Proclamation published in the *Government Gazette*, terminate the right of any association to any further advance: Provided that no such Proclamation shall issue unless a competent expert appointed by the Commissioner shall have certified in writing to the Commissioner that, after inspection of the village and inquiry into its assets and liabilities, no reasonable ground exists for believing that the association will eventually be able to satisfactorily discharge its obligations. Cover of advances.

**12.** Applications for the reduction of rent under section 3 of "The Exchange of Lands and Reduction of Rents Act, 1894," shall not be referred to the Land Board of the District, but, if the Surveyor-General shall in any case recommend the reduction of the rent, the Commissioner may make such reduction (not exceeding the reduction recommended by the Surveyor-General) in the rent as he shall think proper, and section 3 of the said Act is hereby amended accordingly. Commissioner may reduce rents on recommendation of Surveyor-General.

**13.** The date before which the return of reductions under section 3 of the last-mentioned Act has to be laid before Parliament is hereby altered to the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six. Altering date before which return of reductions to be laid before Parliament.

**14.** The time within which applications for the reduction of rents under section 3 of the last mentioned Act may be made is hereby extended to the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six. Time for applications extended.

**15.** The powers conferred by section 21 of the Act No. 584 of 1893 may be exercised by any person holding lands as stated in such section, although such lands were not held by such person at the passing of the said Act; and the powers conferred by section 22 of the said Act shall continue after the expiration of the period mentioned in the said section. Amendment of sections 21 and 22 of Act No. 584.

**16.** Any lessee of land dealt with by any Land Board under any of the Crown Lands Acts may, before the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, apply to the Commissioner in writing to reduce the purchase-money of such land, and such application shall be referred by the Commissioner to the Surveyor-General for report, and if the Surveyor-General shall certify in writing to the Commissioner that in his opinion a reduction of the purchase-money of such land is necessary to secure the profitable occupation thereof the Commissioner may, if he shall think fit so to do, make such reduction (not exceeding the reduction recommended by the Surveyor-General) in the purchase-money as he shall think proper, and a memorandum of such reduction shall be annexed to or indorsed on the lease, and such reduced purchase-money shall be the purchase-money of the land. Commissioner may reduce purchase-money on recommendation of Surveyor-General.

**17.** The

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Holders of miscellaneous leases for grazing and cultivation may apply for reductions of rents.

**17.** The third section of the Exchange of Lands and Reduction of Rents Act of 1894 shall be read and construed to apply to miscellaneous leases for grazing and cultivation granted after December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, but not by any Land Board: Provided that the holders of such leases may apply for reductions of rent on or before June thirtieth, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to  
this Bill.

T. FOWELL BUXTON, Governor.