

1933.
NEW ZEALAND.

RATING OF NATIVE LAND

(REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON).

Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave.

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Prime Minister's Office, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

WHEREAS complaints are made from time to time by local authorities within whose boundaries there exist areas of Native land that difficulty is experienced in collecting rates in respect of such areas by reason of various matters including, *inter alia*, the matters following, namely: that such land is frequently owned by a number of individuals as tenants in common; that such land is unused, unoccupied, or unproductive; that the Maori owners apparently do not fully appreciate the necessity for the payment of their rates; that the remedies at present conferred by the law for recovery of rates assessed upon such land are inadequate: And whereas it is expedient that a Committee should be appointed to inquire and report with regard to the rating of Native lands, and what, if any, amendments are required in the law:

Now, therefore, you

The Hon. ALEXANDER DONALD McLEOD, M.P.,
ROBERT NOBLE JONES, Esquire, C.B.E., and
JOHN HENRY REID, Esquire,

are hereby appointed to be a Committee for the purpose of making inquiry into the following matters, that is to say:—

1. The operation of the existing law relating to the rating of Native lands.
2. In what way the present system of collecting rates on Native land could be improved.
3. The incidence of liability for rates imposed in respect of Native lands and how far the following matters or any of them should affect such incidence:—
 - (1) Ownership in common of land;
 - (2) The fact that land is unoccupied or is not producing revenue;
 - (3) The fact that land is without adequate means of access;
 - (4) The fact that land is reaping little or no benefit from the general expenditure of rates.
4. In view of the well-known difficulty of collecting rates due upon Native lands, what (if any) readjustment is necessary or expedient in the system of granting of Government subsidies to local authorities for hospitals and other purposes.
5. Whether any special provision should be made in respect of those local authorities in the district of which a large proportion of the rateable property is Native land.
6. Any other matter or thing necessary to elicit full information in the premises.

and you, the said Alexander Donald McLeod, are hereby appointed to be the Chairman of the said Committee.

The members of the Committee jointly (or any two of them together) are hereby authorized and empowered to make and conduct an inquiry at such times and at such place or places as they may deem expedient, and are permitted to call before them such person or persons as they may think capable of affording them information in the premises and are also hereby permitted to call for and examine all such records, books, deeds, instruments, accounts, valuation rolls, rate-books, plans, maps, or other documents as they shall judge necessary for the purposes aforesaid or any of them.