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Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.  
1. Short Title.

2. "Defamatory libel" defined.  
3. "Publishing" defined.  
4. Punishment of defamatory libel.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Criminal Code Amendment Act, 1901"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

Short Title.

2. A defamatory libel is matter published, without legal justification or excuse, either designed to insult the person of whom it is published, or likely to injure his reputation by exposing him to hatred, contempt, or ridicule, whether expressed in words legibly marked on any substance or by any object signifying such matter otherwise than by words, and may be expressed either directly or by insinuation or irony.

"Defamatory libel" defined.

3. Publishing a libel may be by—

(1.) Exhibiting it in public; or

(2.) Causing it to be read or seen; or

(3.) Showing or delivering it, or causing it to be shown or delivered, with a view to its being read or seen by the person defamed or by any other person.

"Publishing" defined.

4. Every person is liable—

(1.) To five years' imprisonment, with hard labour, who publishes, or threatens to publish, or offers to abstain from publishing, a defamatory libel, with intent to extort money, or to induce any person to confer upon or procure for any person any appointment or office of profit or trust, or business, or in consequence of being refused any such money, appointment, office, or business;

Punishment of defamatory libel.

(2.) To one year's imprisonment who publishes any defamatory libel, or, if knowing the same to be false, to two years' imprisonment.