

Hon. Mr. Seddon.

JUVENILE DEPRAVITY SUPPRESSION.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to suppress Juvenile Depravity.

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 Juvenile Depravity Suppression Act, 1896."

Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,—

Interpretation.

"Girl" means a girl apparently not over the age of sixteen years:

"Magistrate" means any Stipendiary Magistrate, and includes two Justices of the Peace:

3. Whenever any constable finds any girl loitering in the streets or in out-of-the-way places after the hour of ten of the clock at night, and he has reason to believe that she is there for improper purposes, the following provisions shall apply:—

Procedure when girl found loitering in streets at night for improper purposes.

(1.) He shall forthwith take her to the nearest beat of another constable, or, failing him, to the nearest Justice or clergyman, or, failing him, to the nearest house of some married person of good repute, in whose presence the girl shall be questioned as to her name, her abode, her parents or guardians, and her reason for being from home and loitering as aforesaid.

(2.) The constable shall then take, or shall cause her to be taken, to her home, where she shall be handed over to the person in charge of the house, and the constable shall forthwith on his return from duty make report of the facts to the Officer in Charge of the station.

(3.) In such report the constable shall include the name and address of the person at whose house the girl was left, the occupation of such person, and the relationship existing between such person and the girl.

- (4.) If such girl is again found loitering about as aforesaid, the constable that finds her shall forthwith take her to the nearest police-station, where the Officer in Charge shall question her as to her reasons for again being from home and loitering as aforesaid. 5
- (5.) If the girl's replies to the Officer in Charge are reasonably satisfactory, he shall cause her to be taken to her home by a constable, who shall hand her over and make report as mentioned in subsections two and three hereof.
- (6.) If the girl's replies to the Officer in Charge are not satisfactory, he shall detain her in custody until she can be brought before a Magistrate, and shall forthwith notify the fact of such detention to her parents or guardians, if known. 10
- (7.) The Magistrate before whom the girl is brought may cause her to be delivered up to her parents or guardians, or to be committed to a reformatory or an industrial school, or to be otherwise dealt with as, having regard to all the circumstances, he thinks fit. 15

Power to search houses where girls harboured for improper or immoral purposes.

4. Any member of the Police Force may at any time, without warrant, enter and search any house, shop, building, or other premises occupied or frequented by Chinese, or by prostitutes, or where he has reason to suspect that any girl is harboured for improper or immoral purposes, and every girl there found he shall forthwith take to the nearest police-station, whereupon the provisions of subsections four, five, six, and seven of the *last-preceding* section hereof shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply. 20 25

Similar powers as to boys under seventeen.

5. Any member of the Police Force may at any time, without warrant, enter and search any house or other premises occupied or frequented by prostitutes or gamblers, or which he has cause to suspect to be frequented for gambling or other illegal or improper purpose by boys apparently under the age of *seventeen* years, and every such boy there found he shall forthwith take to the nearest police-station, whereupon the provisions of subsections four, five, six, and seven of section *three* hereof shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply: 30 35

Provided that the Magistrate, in addition to any other order he thinks fit to make, may order such boy to be forthwith whipped with not more than six strokes of a birch-rod by a constable, in the presence of an officer of police of higher rank than a constable; and also in the presence of such of the parents or guardians of such boy as desire to be present. 40

Summary proceedings.

6. All proceedings before a Magistrate under this Act shall be taken in a summary way, and may, in his discretion, be heard privately, and with the exclusion of the public.

Extent of Act.

7. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall apply within the limits of boroughs and town districts, but not outside the same. 45

Sections 22, 27, and 28 of "The Indictable Offences Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1894," amended.

8. Sections twenty-two, twenty-seven, and twenty-eight of "The Indictable Offences Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1894," are hereby amended by substituting the word "sixteen," in lieu of the word "fifteen," wherever that word occurs in those sections. 50