

Mr. Baume.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Law relating to Juvenile Offenders.

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 Offenders Act, 1905."

Short Title.

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

Interpretation.

10 "Borough" means any borough constituted or deemed to be constituted under "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1900," and includes a city:

"Children's aid society" means any duly incorporated and organized society approved, for the purposes of this Act, by the Minister of Education:

15 "Court" means Supreme Court, or District Court, or Magistrate's Court, or Police Court:

"Judge" means a Judge of the Supreme Court, or a District Court Judge, or a Stipendiary Magistrate, or two Justices of the Peace acting together:

20 "Juvenile offender" means any person under the age of sixteen years who in any borough is charged with or convicted of any offence:

"Offence" includes any act or omission punishable either on indictment or summary process, except murder:

25 "Prison" means a prison under "The Prisons Act, 1882."

3. (1.) No juvenile offender shall be confined in any prison, police-cells, room, or place used for ordinary persons charged with, awaiting trial for, or convicted of any offence, including murder.

Juvenile offenders not to be confined in prison.

Boroughs to make arrangements for their safe keeping.

(2.) The Corporation of every borough shall make separate provision for the custody and detention of any juvenile offender prior to his trial or committal to an industrial school or reformatory, as the case may be, whether by arrangement with some children's aid society, schoolmaster, member of the Police Force, or other person, on such terms as may be agreed on, or by providing suitable premises entirely separated from any such prison, police-cell, room, or place as aforesaid. 5

Charges against them not to be heard in open Court.

4. (1.) No juvenile offender shall be tried, or have his case heard or disposed of, in any Courtroom ordinarily used as such, save as hereinafter provided. 10

But in private room where practicable.

(2.) Any charge against any juvenile offender shall be heard and disposed of, when practicable, in premises other than the ordinary Court premises; or, where this is not practicable, in the private room or office of such premises; or, if there be no such private room or office available, then in the ordinary Courtroom; but only in such last-mentioned case when an interval of two hours shall have elapsed after all the ordinary cases for the day have been disposed of. 15

Judge to exclude general public from hearing.

5. The Judge shall exclude from the place where any juvenile offender is charged with an offence all persons other than the counsel and witnesses in the case, Court officers and officers of the law, officers of any children's aid society, and the immediate friends or relatives of the juvenile offender, and (but only if under the special circumstances he considers it necessary) the duly authorised representatives of the newspapers published in the borough. 20
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