

Mr. Fisher.

LIBEL.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Law of Libel.

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 Libel Act, 1902." Short Title.
- 2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.
 - "Newspaper" means a newspaper as defined in "The Printers and Newspapers Registration Act, 1868";
 - 10 "Proprietor" includes the proprietor and publisher registered in respect of any newspaper under the provisions of the said Act.
- 3. (1.) Wherever there is published in any newspaper any statement which injuriously affects the character, reputation, or Newspaper containing libel must publish answer.
 - 15 commercial interests of any person, the proprietor of such newspaper shall, on the request of the person so injuriously affected, within two days after such request, or, if such paper is not issued daily, then in the next succeeding issue of such newspaper, publish in such newspaper such reasonable answer, denial, or explanation as the
 - 20 person so affected demands.
 - (2.) Such answer, denial, or explanation shall be published in a part of such newspaper as prominent and in type as conspicuous as that in which the statement complained of appeared.
 - (3.) If the proprietor of such newspaper refuses or neglects to Penalty.
 - 25 publish any such answer, denial, or explanation within the time and in the manner herein specified, he shall be liable to a penalty of not less than *ten* pounds and not more than *fifty* pounds.
 - 4. (1.) Whenever in the public interests any proceedings in any Report of proceedings in camera.
 - 30 Court are ordered by the Court to be heard *in camera*, it shall not be lawful for the proprietor of any newspaper to publish any report

or comment on such proceedings other than the fact or to the effect that such proceedings were so heard *in camera*.

(2.) The proprietor of any newspaper contravening the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds.

Proprietor of newspaper must disclose name of correspondent.

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5. In any action against the proprietor of a newspaper in respect of the publication of a libel contained in or purporting to be contained in a letter from a correspondent to such newspaper, the defendant, or each of the defendants if there be more than one, shall, on application to the Court in that behalf, disclose on affidavit 10 the true name and address of such correspondent, whereupon such defendant shall be freed from all liability in respect of such libel other than the liability to pay such costs of action as may be awarded against him by the Court.