

Mr. Sheehan.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS EXTENSION.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.
Preamble.
1. Short Title.
2. Criminal proceedings for libel not to be taken without consent of Attorney-General.</p> | <p>3. Solicitor-General may act if no Attorney-General.
4. Saving of existing proceedings.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make provision for Extending and Securing the Liberty of the Press. Title.

WHEREAS it is desirable that some limitation should be placed upon the power at present existing of proceeding criminally in respect of alleged libels : Preamble.

5 BE IT THEREFORE 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 Liberty of the Press Extension Act, 1881." Short Title.

10 2. From and after the passing of this Act, no criminal proceedings shall be instituted or taken in respect of any alleged libellous matter appearing in any newspaper, unless and until the consent of the Attorney-General for the time being shall have first been obtained. Criminal proceedings for libel not to be taken without consent of Attorney-General.

15 3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General shall possess the powers of the Attorney-General for the purposes of this Act. Solicitor-General may act if no Attorney-General.

4. This Act shall not apply to any criminal proceedings for libel which may be on foot at the time of its coming into force. Saving of existing proceedings.