

(Hon. Mr. Bathgate.)

Neglected Children.

ANALYSIS.

Title.
Preamble.
1. Short Title.

2. Immoral or dissolute parents may be deprived of parental rights during nonage of child.
3. Sections 3 and 4 amended.
4. Delegation of powers.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, 1867."

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the provisions of "The Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, 1867:"

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 shall be "The Neglected Children's Act, 1873."

2. Notwithstanding anything in "The Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, 1867," contained, it shall be lawful for any Justices before whom any child shall be brought charged with being a neglected child, upon proof to the satisfaction of such Justices that the parent or parents of such child is or are of such immoral or dissolute habits as to be unfit to be allowed to exercise the rights of parental guardianship over such child, to order and direct that such parent or parents shall cease to have such rights of parental guardianship, and that the Master for the time being of the Industrial School to which such child is sent shall thereafter during the entire nonage of such child stand *in loco parentis*, and have and exercise in respect of such child all the rights of parental guardianship.

3. The words "and every such school shall be occupied by and used for males or females exclusively as any such Superintendent may direct," shall be deemed to be expunged from sections three and four of "The Neglected and Criminal Children's Act, 1867."

4. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, under his hand and the public seal of the Colony, from time to time to delegate to the Superintendent of any Province the powers vested in the Governor by section twenty-two of the said Act.