

Hon. Mr. Carroll.

TOHUNGA SUPPRESSION.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to suppress Tohungas.

Title.

WHEREAS designing persons, commonly known as tohungas, practise on the superstition and credulity of the Maori by pretending to possess supernatural powers in the treatment and cure of disease, the foretelling of future events, and otherwise, and thereby induce the Maoris to neglect their proper avocations and gather into meetings where their substance is consumed and their minds unsettled to the injury of themselves and to the evil example of the Maori people generally :

Preamble.

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 Tohunga Suppression Act, 1906."

Short Title.

2. Every person who is or pretends to be a tohunga, or who gathers the Maoris around him by practising on their superstition and credulity as hereinbefore described, and who receives any payment or reward either directly or indirectly for the exercise of his pretended powers, is liable on summary conviction before a Magistrate or two Justices to a fine not exceeding five pounds for a first offence and to imprisonment for not exceeding six months for a second or any subsequent offence.

Penalty on person practising as a tohunga.

3. The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council gazetted, make such regulations as he sees fit to enable the intention of this Act to be carried out.

Regulations.

4. Subsection five of section sixteen of "The Maori Councils Act, 1900," and all regulations made under that subsection are hereby repealed.

Repeal.

By Authority : JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1906.