

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

YOUNG PERSONS PROTECTION.

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A BILL INTITLED

AN ACT to suppress Juvenile Depravity.

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 5 1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Young Persons Protection Act, 1897." Short Title.
- 10 2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.
 - "Girl" means a girl apparently not over the age of sixteen years:
 - "Guardian" includes the person having the lawful care or charge of a girl or boy:
 - "Magistrate" means any Stipendiary Magistrate, and includes two Justices of the Peace:
 - 15 "Matron" means the person in charge of a refuge, and includes any female officer therein acting in her absence:
 - "Prescribed" means prescribed by regulations under this Act.
- 20 3. For the administration of the provisions of this Act relating to girls the Governor may from time to time,— Governor may appoint protection officers and establish refuges.
 - 25 (1.) Appoint discreet women to be protection officers under this Act, and prescribe their duties, functions, and powers:
 - (2.) Establish, equip, and maintain refuges under this Act, and appoint matrons thereof, and officers, assistants, and servants therein:
 - (3.) Appoint to be refuges under this Act any homes or other institutions established for the protection or benefit of women or girls:

Procedure when
girl found loitering
in streets for
immoral purposes.

- (4.) Prescribe the duties, functions, and powers of the matrons and other officers of refuges under this Act.
4. Whenever any protection officer finds any girl abroad at unreasonable hours or loitering in the streets or out-of-the-way places, and has reason to believe that she is there without proper control, or for immoral purposes, the following provisions shall apply:— 5
- (1.) The protection officer may forthwith question the girl as to her name, her abode, her parents or guardians, and her reasons for being abroad.
- (2.) If the answers are satisfactory, the protection officer may, in her discretion, either take the girl to the door of her abode, and there leave her, or take her inside and hand her over to the person in charge thereof, reporting verbally to such person what has occurred. 10
- (3.) If the answers are not satisfactory, or if the girl has been previously dealt with under the *last-preceding* subsection hereof, the protection officer shall forthwith take her to the nearest refuge and there question her as aforesaid in the presence of the matron thereof. 15
- (4.) If, after having questioned the girl, both the protection officer and the matron are agreed that it is expedient so to do, the girl may be detained in the refuge (in a room apart from the other inmates) until she can be brought before the Magistrate, as hereinafter provided. 20
- (5.) If they are not so agreed, the protection officer shall take the girl to her abode, and there deliver her to the person in charge, reporting verbally to such person what has occurred, and ascertaining the relationship that exists between such person and the girl. 25
- (6.) The protection officer shall then, in the prescribed manner, make report of the facts to the officer in charge of the nearest police-station, including in such report the girl's abode, the name of the person in charge thereof, the relationship existing between such person and the girl, and the names, addresses, and occupations of her parents and guardians, as far as known; and the officer in charge shall forthwith notify the facts to the parents and guardians. 30
- (7.) If such girl is again found by a protection officer to be loitering as aforesaid, the protection officer shall forthwith take her to the nearest refuge, where she shall be detained as aforesaid until she can be brought before a Magistrate. 40
5. Any protection officer, accompanied by any member of the Police Force, may at any time, without warrant, enter and search any house, shop, building, or other premises occupied or frequented by Chinese, or by prostitutes, or where there is reason to suspect that any girl is harboured for immoral purposes; and every girl there found shall be forthwith taken by such protection officer and member of the Police Force to the nearest refuge, where she shall be detained as aforesaid until she can be brought before a Magistrate. 45
6. In every case where a girl is detained as aforesaid in a refuge the following provisions shall apply:— 50

Power to search
house where girl
harboured for
immoral purposes.

Procedure when
girl detained in a
refuge.

(1.) The matron shall record the facts in a book to be kept for the purpose, including therein the particulars prescribed in subsection *six* of section *four* hereof.

(2.) Such matron shall also, in the prescribed manner, forthwith make report of the facts to the officer in charge of the nearest police-station, and also to the parents and guardians of the girl, so far as known.

7. Every girl detained in a refuge as aforesaid shall, as soon as practicable, be brought before a Magistrate by the matron or the protection officer on the charge of being a neglected girl; and the Magistrate, after making full inquiry, may either cause her to be delivered up to her parents or guardians, or to be committed to a reformatory or an industrial school, or to be otherwise dealt with as, having regard to all the circumstances, he thinks fit.

Girl so detained to be brought before Magistrate. His powers.

8. In every case where the Magistrate finds such girl to be a neglected girl, each of her parents and guardians is severally liable to a penalty not exceeding *ten* pounds, or to imprisonment for any period not exceeding *three* months, such imprisonment being in addition to such penalty, or in lieu thereof, or in default of the payment thereof, as the Court thinks fit: Provided that no parent or guardian shall be liable under this section who satisfies the Court that he has himself done all that lay in his power to protect, control, and restrain her.

Penalty on parents and guardians of neglected girl.

9. It shall be the duty of all members of the Police Force to assist protection officers and matrons in the performance of their duties and the exercise of their functions and powers under this Act.

Police Force to assist officers.

10. Any member of the Police Force may at any time, without warrant, enter and search any house or other premises occupied or frequented by prostitutes or gamblers, or which he has cause to suspect to be frequented for gambling or other illegal or improper purpose by boys apparently under the age of *seventeen* years; and every such boy there found shall be forthwith taken to the nearest police-station, and there detained in custody until he can be brought before the Magistrate by the police on the charge of being a neglected boy, whereupon the provisions of sections *seven* and *eight* hereof shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply:

Power to search house frequented by boys for gambling or improper purposes.

Provided that the Magistrate, in addition to any other order he thinks fit to make, may order such boy to be forthwith whipped with not more than six strokes of a birch-rod by a constable, in the presence of an officer of police of higher rank than a constable; and also in the presence of such of the parents or guardians of such boy as desire to be present.

11. Every person who, being the parent or guardian of a girl,— induces or knowingly suffers such girl to visit for any immoral purpose any such premises as are referred to in section *five* hereof, or to have illicit carnal connection with any man, whether any particular man or generally, is liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding *one* year with hard labour.

Punishment of parent or guardian inducing girl to act immorally.

12. All proceedings under this Act shall be taken in a summary way, and may, in the discretion of the Court, be heard privately, and with the exclusion of the public.

Summary proceedings.

Amendment of
"The Indictable
Offences Summary
Jurisdiction Act,
1894."

13. Sections twenty-two, twenty-seven, and twenty-eight of "The Indictable Offences Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1894," are hereby amended by substituting the word "sixteen," in lieu of the word "fifteen," wherever that word occurs in those sections.

Regulations.

14. The Governor may from time to time make such regulations as he deems necessary in order to give full effect to the purposes and provisions of this Act. 5

Expenses of
administration.

15. All sums expended in the administration of this Act shall be paid out of moneys to be appropriated by Parliament, and all penalties recovered under this Act shall be paid into the Public Account and form part of the Consolidated Fund. 10