

Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon.

YOUNG PERSONS PROTECTION.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Interpretation.</p> <p>3. Governor may appoint Protection Officers and establish refuges.</p> <p>4. Act only to have operation in counties or boroughs by special order of local authorities.</p> <p>5. Procedure when young person found loitering in streets without control or for immoral purposes.</p> <p>6. Power to search house where young person harboured for immoral purposes.</p> <p>7. Procedure when young person detained in a refuge.</p>	<p>8. Young person so detained to be brought before Magistrate. His powers.</p> <p>9. Penalty on parents and guardians of neglected young person.</p> <p>10. Police Force to assist officers.</p> <p>11. Power to search house frequented by boys for gambling or improper purposes.</p> <p>12. Punishment of parent or guardian inducing girl to act immorally.</p> <p>13. Summary proceedings.</p> <p>14. Regulations.</p> <p>15. Expenses of administration.</p>
---	---

A BILL INTITULED

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, 1898." Short Title.
- 10 2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.
 - "Young person" means a boy or girl apparently not over the age of sixteen years:
 - "Guardian" includes the person having the lawful care or charge of a young person:
 - "Magistrate" means any Stipendiary Magistrate:
 - "Prescribed" means prescribed by regulations under this Act.
- 15 3. For the administration of the provisions of this Act the Governor may from time to time,— Governor may appoint Protection Officers and establish refuges.
 - (1.) Appoint fit persons of either sex to be Protection Officers under this Act:
 - 20 (2.) Establish, equip, and maintain refuges under this Act, and appoint Matrons or Managers 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:

Act only to have operation in counties or boroughs by special order of local authorities.

Procedure when young person found loitering in streets without control or for immoral purposes.

Power to search house where young person harboured for immoral purposes.

(4.) Prescribe the duties, functions, and powers of every person appointed under this Act.

4. (1.) This Act shall have operation only in counties or boroughs the local authorities whereof adopt it by special order.

(2.) Any such adopting order may, by special order, be rescinded, whereupon, and until it is again adopted by special order, this Act shall cease to have operation in the district of the local authority by which such rescinding order is made. 5

5. Whenever any Protection Officer finds any young person of either sex loitering in the streets or out-of-the-way places at untimely hours (meaning thereby between *nine* o'clock at night and *five* o'clock in the morning), and has reason to believe that such young person is there without proper control, or for immoral purposes, the following provisions shall apply:— 10

(1.) The Protection Officer may forthwith question the young person as to his name, abode, parents or guardians, and his reasons for being abroad. 15

(2.) If the answers are satisfactory, the Protection Officer may, in his discretion, either take the young person to the door of his abode, and there leave him, or take him inside and hand him over to the person in charge thereof, reporting verbally to such person what has occurred. 20

(3.) If the answers are not satisfactory, or if the young person has been previously dealt with under the *last-preceding* subsection hereof, the Protection Officer shall forthwith take such young person to a refuge under this Act. 25

(4.) If the person in charge of the refuge considers it expedient, the young person may be detained there until he can be brought before the Magistrate, as hereinafter provided.

(5.) The Protection Officer shall, in the prescribed manner, make report of the facts to the officer in charge of the nearest police-station, including in such report the young person's abode, the name of the person in charge thereof, and the names, addresses, and occupations of the young person's parents and guardians, as far as known; and the officer in charge shall forthwith notify the facts to the parents and guardians. 30 35

(6.) If such young person is again found by a Protection Officer to be loitering as aforesaid, the Protection Officer shall forthwith take him to the refuge, where he shall be detained as aforesaid until he can be brought before a Magistrate. 40

6. Any Protection Officer, accompanied by any member of the Police Force, may at any time, under warrant signed by a Justice of the Peace, enter and search any house, shop, building, or other premises occupied or frequented by prostitutes, or where there is reason to suspect that any young person is harboured for illegal, improper, or immoral purposes; and every young person there found shall be forthwith taken by such Protection Officer and member of the Police Force to a refuge under this Act, where he shall be detained as aforesaid until he can be brought before a Magistrate. 45 50

7. In every case where a young person is detained as aforesaid in a refuge the person in charge of the refuge—

Procedure when young person detained in a refuge.

(1.) Shall record the facts in a book to be kept for the purpose, including therein the particulars prescribed in subsection *five* of section *five* hereof; and also

5

(2.) Shall, 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 young person, so far as known.

10

8. Every young person 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 young person; and the Magistrate, after making full inquiry, may either cause him to be delivered up to his 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.

Young person so detained to be brought before Magistrate.

His powers.

15

9. In every case where the Magistrate finds such young person to be a neglected young person, each of his 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 such young person.

Penalty on parents and guardians of neglected young person.

20

10. It shall be the duty of all members of the Police Force to assist Protection Officers, Matrons, Managers, and all other persons appointed under this Act in the performance of their duties and the exercise of their functions and powers under this Act.

Police Force to assist officers.

30

11. Any member of the Police Force may at any time, under warrant signed by a Justice of the Peace, enter and search any house, shop, building, 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 purposes 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 *eight* and *nine* hereof shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply.

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

35

12. 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 *six* hereof, or to have illicit carnal connection with any man, whether any particular man or generally,

Punishment of parent or guardian inducing girl to act immorally.

45

is liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one year with hard labour.

50

13. All proceedings under this Act shall be taken in a summary way before a Magistrate alone, and shall be heard privately, and with the exclusion of the public.

Summary proceedings.

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.

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.