

*This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL and having this day passed as now printed is transmitted to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES for its concurrence.*

*Legislative Council,  
8th July, 1870.*

*(Hon. Mr. Sewell.)*

## District Courts Criminal Jurisdiction Extension.

### ANALYSIS.

Title.

Preamble.

1. Short Title.

2. Repeal of sec. 29, "District Courts Act, 1858."

3. Eleventh section of "District Courts Amendment Act, 1860," repealed. Proviso.

4. Extension of criminal jurisdiction.

5. Offenders may be tried in the district where they are in custody.

6. Provisions of former Acts to apply to cases tried under this Act.

### A BILL INTITLED

## AN ACT for extending the Criminal Jurisdiction of District Courts.

**W**HEREAS it is expedient that the Criminal Jurisdiction of District Courts be extended:

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 District Courts Criminal Jurisdiction Extension Act, 1870," and it shall come into operation on the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

2. The twenty-ninth section of "The District Courts Act, 1858," is hereby repealed.

3. The eleventh section of "The District Courts Amendment Act, 1860," is hereby repealed: Provided that such repeal shall not apply to or affect persons appointed as Judges of District Courts prior to the passing of this Act.

4. Every District Court shall have cognizance of all felonies and indictable misdemeanours committed before or after the passing of this Act, within the district over which its jurisdiction extends, except treason, murder, or other capital felony, or any felony which when committed by a person not previously convicted of felony is punishable by penal servitude for more than seven years; except also any of the following offences, that is to say—

1. Misprision of treason.
2. Offences against the Queen's title, prerogative, person, or Government.
3. Offences subject to the penalties of Præmunire.
4. Blasphemy and offences against religion.
5. Administering or taking unlawful oaths.
6. Composing, printing, or publishing blasphemous, seditious, or defamatory libels.
7. Unlawful combinations and conspiracies, except combinations or conspiracies to commit any offence whereof such District Court hath cognizance when committed by one person.

5. Every such felony and misdemeanour, except as aforesaid, may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, determined, and punished in any district constituted under "The District Court Act, 1858," where the offender shall be apprehended or be in custody in the same manner in all respects as if the offence had been actually committed in that district.

6. All the provisions of "The District Courts Act, 1858," and of the several Acts for the time being in force, with respect to each District Court, so far as the same remain unrepealed and are applicable, and not inconsistent herewith, shall apply to the several District Courts in the same manner as if the provisions of this Act had been incorporated in "The District Courts Act, 1858."