

(Mr. Steward.)

Newspaper Press Act.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to define the Privileges of the Newspaper Press in the Publication of Reports &c. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient better to define the privileges of the Press in the publication of reports of the proceedings of public bodies and in commenting thereon and in the publication of original or contributed articles: Preamble.

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

1 **1.** The Short Title of this Act shall be “The Newspaper Press Act, 1871.” Short Title.

10 **2.** The word “newspaper” shall mean and include any registered journal any magazine book pamphlet or printed sheet whatsoever. Interpretation.

15 **3.** The publication in any newspaper of any evidence taken in any Court of Justice or before any Resident Magistrate Justice of the Peace or Coroner or in any legally constituted Court of Inquiry sitting with open doors and of any comments summing-up judgment or ruling of any Justice Magistrate Coroner or Presiding Officer sitting officially in such Court or holding such inquiry shall be privileged and protected and action civil or criminal in respect of any injury loss or damage which any person may allege that he has sustained by reason of such publication shall not lie against the printer publisher proprietor or Report of judicial proceedings.
 20 editor of such newspaper: Provided always that the report of such evidence comments judgment or ruling shall be unprejudiced and *pro tanto* a true and fair record and without express malice.

Newspaper Press.

Report of legislative proceedings and meetings required by law to be held.

4. A true and fair report without malice of any legislative proceeding or of anything said in the course thereof and of the proceedings of any open meeting of any Corporation Road Board Education Board School Committee or other public body required by law to be held or of anything said in the course thereof shall in like manner be privileged and protected.

Comments and articles thereon.

5. Any article comment or other writing based upon or referring to such reports and proceedings as are set forth in clauses three and four of this Act shall be privileged and protected when such article comment or writing shall be free of express malice and shall be a fair representation of or in accordance with the facts of the case.

Reports of other meetings &c.

6. The publication in any newspaper of the reports of any electoral meeting or other public meeting or of any article letter communication or comment whatsoever with regard to such meetings or otherwise with regard to any public question or referring or relating to any person matter or thing other than such matters or things as are provided for in clauses three four and five of this Act shall be privileged and protected only in so far as it can be shown to the satisfaction of any Court in which any action thereanent may be raised that such publication was *bonâ fide* and without malice and was necessary or conducive to the public interest.
