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No. , 1915.

A BILL

To provide that in certain cases orders may be made that a court shall be cleared and that certain evidence shall not be published ; and for other purposes.

[MR. D. R. HALL;—9 *February*, 1915.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Indecent Evidence Short title. Publication Act, 1915."

2. Where, in the opinion of any court sitting in either original or appellate jurisdiction, the publication of any evidence given or used, or to be given or used, in any proceeding, civil or criminal, before such court would offend against public decency, the court may at any time— 5

- (a) order that any person not directly interested in such proceeding shall leave the court or place of hearing while such evidence is being given or used; 10
- (b) forbid the publication of the evidence, or any report or account of the evidence, as to the whole or any portion thereof.

3. (1) Any person disobeying an order made under paragraph (a) of the last preceding section may be removed from such court or place. 15

(2) Any person disobeying an order made under paragraph (b) of such section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *one hundred* pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four months, upon conviction before a stipendiary or police magistrate. 20

4. Nothing in this Act shall affect the power of any court to punish for contempt, or any powers already possessed by such court.

5. In this Act the word "court" includes a judge, magistrate, or justice of the peace. 25