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Sir G. Grey.

PROTECTION OF DEBTORS.

ANALYSIS.

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| Title.                                  | 3. Right only over £50 in value.                                 |
| Preamble.                               | 4. Holder of bill of sale not to seize goods under £50 in value. |
| 1. Short Title.                         | 5. Dispute as to value of property, &c., how decided.            |
| 2. No seizure unless over value of £50. |  |

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Protection of Property and Goods of Title. Persons from unreasonable Distress and Seizure.

WHEREAS it is desirable to protect the property and goods of persons from unreasonable distress and seizure :

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 is "The Protection of Debtors Act, 1881." Short Title.
- 2. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no landlord and no Sheriff and no officer of any Court can distrain on or seize or impound any goods belonging to any tenant or judgment debtor or other person whatsoever unless the value of such goods shall exceed the sum of fifty pounds. No seizure unless over value of £50.
- 3. The right to distrain for rent due, and to seize or impound goods by any writ or warrant to distrain, shall only give the right to distrain or seize or impound any goods over the value of fifty pounds belonging to the tenant or judgment debtor, as the case may be. Right only over £50 in value.
- 4. No holder of any bill of sale shall be entitled to seize the household furniture or tools of trade of any person, or the clothing of the said person or that of his wife or children, unless the value thereof exceed fifty pounds, and then only the furniture, tools, and clothing that exceeds in value the said sum of fifty pounds. Holder of bill of sale not to seize goods under £50 in value.
- 5. If any dispute or difficulty shall arise as to what goods, household furniture, tools, or clothing are of the value of fifty pounds, or any other dispute that may arise in the administration of this Act, the same shall, on application to him in writing, be decided by the Resident Magistrate of the district wherein the dispute arose; but if the amount in dispute exceeds the sum of one hundred pounds, then by a Judge of the Supreme Court in chambers, on summons, and such decision shall in either case be final. Dispute as to value of property, &c., how decided.