

An Act for the more speedy trial and punishment of juvenile offenders.

WHEREAS in order in certain cases to ensure the more Preamble.
 speedy trial of juvenile offenders, and to avoid the evils
 of their long imprisonment previously to trial, it is expedient to
 allow of such offenders being proceeded against in a more
 5 summary manner than is now by law provided, and to give
 further power to, bail them : Therefore, Her Majesty, by and
 with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and
 Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows :

I. Every person who shall, subsequently to the passing of this
 10 Act, be charged with having committed or having attempted to
 commit, or with having been an aider, abettor, counsellor or
 procurer in the commission of, any offence which now is or
 hereafter shall or may be by law deemed or declared to be
 simple larceny, or punishable as simple larceny, and whose age
 15 at the period of the commission or attempted commission of
 such offence shall not in the opinion of the Justices before whom
 he or she shall be brought or appear as hereinafter mentioned
 exceed the age of sixteen years, shall, upon conviction thereof,
 upon his own confession or upon proof before two or more
 20 Justices of the Peace for any District in Lower Canada, or City,
 County, or Union of Counties in Upper Canada, in open Court,
 be committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction
 within the jurisdiction of such Justices, there to be imprisoned
 with or without hard labor, for any term not exceeding three
 25 calendar months, or, in the discretion of such Justices
 shall forfeit and pay such sum, not exceeding five pounds, as
 the said Justices shall adjudge, or, if a male whose age shall
 not, in the opinion of such Justices exceed the age of fourteen
 years, shall be once privately whipped, either instead of or in
 30 addition to such imprisonment or imprisonment with hard
 labor ; and such Justices shall from time to time appoint some
 fit and proper person, being a Constable, to inflict the said
 punishment of whipping, when so ordered to be inflicted out of
 prison : Provided always, that if such Justices, upon the hear-
 35 ing of any such case, shall deem the offence not to be proved,
 or that it is not expedient to inflict any punishment, they shall
 dismiss the party charged on finding surety or sureties for his
 future good behaviour, or without such sureties, and then make
 out and deliver to the party charged a certificate under the
 40 hands of such Justices stating the fact of such dismissal ; and
 such certificate shall and may be in the form or to the effect set
 forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed in that behalf : Provided

Persons of not more than sixteen years of age committing certain offences may be summarily convicted by two Justices.

Proviso: that Justices may dismiss the accused if they deem it expedient not to inflict any punishment.