

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

IN NEW ZEALAND

The Supreme Court of the Colony, established by the Charter issued in pursuance thereof, regulates the Judicature and sits on the basis of the Jurisprudence of this Colony. By virtue of this Charter the Supreme and Circuit Courts are established.

The Supreme Court, consisting of three Judges, has the same jurisdiction over the whole Island and its Dependencies as Her Majesty's Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, and Chancery in England.

The Circuit Courts, namely:—the Central, Northern and Southern Circuit Courts, severally exercise the like jurisdiction, (except in treason and capital felonies,) in the several Judicial Districts into which the Island is divided. Each of these Courts is held by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

There is also a Court of Vice-Admiralty established under special Commission, and presided over by the Chief Justice.

There are also Courts of Quarter Sessions, exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction to a limited extent, in each District.

The Supreme Court has power by the Charter to grant Letters of administration and Probate of wills; to appoint receivers, guardians for infants and lunatics; and the Judges are authorized to make rules and orders for the regulation of the proceedings of the Supreme and Central Circuit Courts.

In all of these Courts (except the Court of Vice-Admiralty) the suitors have the right of trial by Jury; and their proceedings are for the most part regulated by the rules and orders made by the Judges, as well as by statutory enactments; and in cases not otherwise provided for, the practice of these Courts is the same as in Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench, prior to Hilary Term 1884.

The mode of proceeding in the Court of Vice-Admiralty is the same as in England.

The Supreme Court has two terms in the year—one in May and the other in November—besides its sittings in vacation.

The Central Circuit Court also has two terms in the year—one in April and the other in October, with sittings in vacation. The Northern Circuit Court has similar terms; and the Southern Circuit Court has similar terms.

The Court of Vice-Admiralty is always open when there is any business to be transacted.

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