## New South Wales.



ANNO TERTIO DECIMO

## GEORGII V REGIS.

## Act No. 3, 1922.

An Act to amend the law of evidence; and for that purpose to repeal certain provisions of the Evidence Act, 1898, and the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899. [Assented to, 15th August, 1922.]

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 "Evidence (Amend-Short title.

ment) Act, 1922."

2. Section eleven of the Evidence Act, 1898, is Amendment repealed, and the following new section is inserted in Act, 1898.

place thereof:—

11. (1) A husband shall be competent but not Communicacompellable to disclose communications made tions during marriage. between him and his wife during the marriage, and a wife shall be competent but not compellable to disclose communications made between her and her husband during the marriage.

(2) Where a husband and wife are both parties to a proceeding under the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899, each of them shall be competent and compellable to disclose such communications.

(3) This section applies to communications made before as well as after the commencement of

this Act.

3. The Evidence Act, 1898, is amended by the Amendment insertion of the following new sections after section Act, 1898. fifty-five:—

56. When any question put to a witness in crossexamination is not relevant to the cause or proceeding, except so far as the truth of the matter suggested by the question affects the credit of the witness by injuring his character, the court shall have a discretion to disallow the question, if in its opinion the matter is so remote in time, or of such a nature that an admission of its truth would not materially affect the credibility of the witness.

57. The court may forbid any question or inquiry which it regards as indecent or scandalous, although the question or inquiry may have some bearing on the questions before the court, unless they relate to facts in issue or to matters necessary to be known in order to determine whether or not the facts in issue existed.

58. The court may forbid any question which appears to it to be intended to insult or annoy, or which, though proper in itself, appears to the court to be needlessly offensive in form.

59. It shall not be lawful without the express permission of the court for any person to print or publish any question or inquiry which has been forbidden or disallowed by the court, on any of the grounds mentioned in sections fifty-six, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight of this Act.

4. Section eighty of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899, is hereby repealed.

of Evidence

Limits of crossexamination. cf. Order 36 & 38 R.S.C., 1883. cf. Indian Evidence Act. 1872, s. 148. cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 35.

Indecent or scandalous questions. cf. Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 151. cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 37.

Questions intended to insult and annoy. cf. Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 152. cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 38.

Prohibited question not to be published cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 39.

Repeal of s. 80 of Matrimonial Causes Act 1899.

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I certify that this Public Bill, which originated in the Legislative Assembly, has finally passed the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

W. S. MOWLE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly Chamber, Sydney, 10 August, 1922, A.M.

# New South Wales.



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Act No. 3, 1922.

An Act to amend the law of evidence; and for that purpose to repeal certain provisions of the Evidence Act, 1898, and the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899. [Assented to, 15th August, 1922.]

BE

I have examined this Bill, and find it to correspond in all respects with the Bill as finally passed by both Houses.

> R. B. WALKER, Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly.

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 "Evidence (Amend-

ment) Act, 1922."

2. Section eleven of the Evidence Act, 1898, is repealed, and the following new section is inserted in place thereof:—

11. (1) A husband shall be competent but not compellable to disclose communications made between him and his wife during the marriage, and a wife shall be competent but not compellable to disclose communications made between her and her husband during the marriage.

(2) Where a husband and wife are both parties to a proceeding under the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899, each of them shall be competent and compellable to disclose such communications.

(3) This section applies to communications made before as well as after the commencement of this Act.

3. The Evidence Act, 1898, is amended by the insertion of the following new sections after section fifty-five:—

56. When any question put to a witness in cross-examination is not relevant to the cause or proceeding, except so far as the truth of the matter suggested by the question affects the credit of the witness by injuring his character, the court shall have a discretion to disallow the question, if in its opinion the matter is so remote in time, or of such a nature that an admission of its truth would not materially affect the credibility of the witness.

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58.

Short title

Amendment of Evidence Act, 1898.

Communications during marriage.

Amendment of Evidence Act, 1898.

Limits of crossexamination. cf. Order 36 & 38 R.S.C., 1883. cf. Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 148. cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 35.

Indecent or scandalous questions. cf. Indian Evidence Act, 1872, s. 151. cf. Vict. Act, No. 2,647, s. 37.

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59. It shall not be lawful without the express Prohibited permission of the court for any person to print or be published publish any question or inquiry which has been cf. Vict. Act., No. 2,647, s. 39. forbidden or disallowed by the court, on any of the grounds mentioned in sections fifty-six, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight of this Act.

**4.** Section eighty of the Matrimonial Causes Act, Repeal of s. SO of Matrimonial Causes Act, Causes Act, 1899, is hereby repealed. 1899, is hereby repealed.

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty I assent to this Act.

W. E. DAVIDSON,

Government House, Sydney, 15th August, 1922. Governor.

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#### EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

SCHEDULE of Amendments referred to in Message of 9th August, 1922.

Page 3, clause 3, line 5. After "lawful" insert "without the express permission "of the court"

Page 3, clause 3, lines 8 and 9. Omit "and which the court has further ordered shall "not be published" insert "on any of the grounds mentioned in sections "fifty-six, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight of this Act"

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This Public Bill originated in the Legislative Assembly, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.

W. S. MOWLE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly Chamber, Sydney, 2 August, 1922.

The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL has this day agreed to this Bill with Amendments.

W. L. S. COOPER, Clerk of the Parliaments.

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 9th August, 1922.

## New South Wales,



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Act No. , 1922.

An Act to amend the law of evidence; and for that purpose to repeal certain provisions of the Evidence Act, 1898, and the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1899.

63437

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Note.—The words to be omitted are ruled through; those to be inserted are printed in black letter.

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Sydney: John Spence, Acting Government Printer-1922.

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