Coroners Act Amendment.

ANALYSIS.

Title. 1. Short Title. Commencement of Act. 2. Repeal of sections 3, 4, 5, and 28 of "Coroners

Act, 1867." 3. Every Resident Magistrate to be a Coroner.

4. Number of jurors at inquest not to exceed seven.

5. In special cases jury may consist of four members. Should it be impossible to obtain a jury, power to do without. 6. In which case Coroner to transmit a statement

of his reasons for holding inquest without iury

7. Fee for holding inquest to be abolished.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Coroners Act, 1867."

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled and by the settle in the Second Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :-

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Coroners Act Short Title. Com-5 Amendment Act, 1876." And it shall come into operation on the mencement of Act. first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

2. Sections three, four, five, and twenty-eight of "The Coroners Repeal of sections 3,

Act, 1867," (hereinafter called "the said Act,") are hereby repealed. 3. Every Resident Magistrate shall, by virtue of his office, be the 1867.

- 10 Coroner of the Resident Magistrate's district to which he shall have Every Resident Magistrate to be a been or may hereafter be appointed, and, in the event of there being Coroner. two or more Resident Magistrates for any such district, then such one as the Governor shall appoint.
- 4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Number of jurors at 15 said Act, the number of jurors at any inquest or inquiry to be taken inquest not to exceed by or before any Coroner shall not exceed seven.

5. If at any time difficulty shall be found in obtaining seven In special cases jury jurors at any inquest or inquiry to be taken by or before any Coroner, it shall be lawful for such Coroner to take or hold such inquest or

- 20 inquiry with not less than four jurors, and, in cases where it shall be should it be imposfound impracticable or impossible to obtain four jurors, then without any jury; and every such Coroner shall have the same power as he and a full jury would have had under the said Act, or would have under this Act.
- 25 6. Whenever, under the power contained in the preceding section, In which case any such inquest or inquiry shall be taken or held by or before any Coroner to transmit a statement of his Coroner, such Coroner shall forthwith transmit to the Minister of reasons for holding Justice for the time being a statement of the reasons why such inquest or inquiry was taken or held before him with a less number of jurors 30 than seven, or without any jury, as the case may be.

7. From and after the coming into operation of this Act, the fee Fee for holding of two pounds two shillings mentioned in the Third Schedule to the abolished. said Act as payable to the Coroner, Deputy, or Justice, for holding any inquest, shall be abolished and cease to be payable.

> By Authority : GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.-1876. No. 16-1.

Title.

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