

Hon. Major Steward.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Law relating to Coroners' Inquests.

Title.

BE IT 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 Coroners' Inquests Act, 1894."

Short Title.

2. The deadhouse of every public hospital, in cases where there is no building specially set apart for a morgue within two miles of such deadhouse, shall be taken and deemed to be a public morgue; and the officer in charge of such hospital shall, at the request of any Justice of the Peace, or officer or constable of police, receive into such deadhouse any dead body which may be brought to be deposited therein until an inquest shall have been held thereon.

Deadhouse of hospital to be public morgue.

3. If the officer in charge of such hospital shall refuse to receive such dead body for the purpose aforesaid he shall, on conviction thereof before any Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds: Provided always that the inquest upon such dead body shall not be held upon the premises of such hospital without the consent of the Medical Superintendent first had and obtained.

Penalty for refusal to receive body.

4. Every licensed publican shall, at the request of any Justice of the Peace or officer or constable of police, supply convenient accommodation on his licensed premises for holding an inquest or inquiry under "The Coroner's Act, 1867," or any amendment thereof; and in default shall be liable to forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds; and for such accommodation he shall be paid the sum of one pound.

Inquest or inquiry in licensed house.

5. But no such inquest or inquiry shall be held upon the premises of any licensed publican if there shall be a Courthouse or police-station situate within a distance of one mile from such licensed premises, whereat such inquest or inquiry can be conveniently held.

Exception.

Amendment of
section 4 of Act
of 1888.

4. Section four of "The Coroners Act Amendment Act, 1888," is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof it is enacted as follows: Notwithstanding anything contained in "The Coroners Act, 1867," or in section one hundred and thirty-six of "The Licensing Act, 1881," no holder of a publican's license shall be required to receive any dead body for the purpose of an inquest being held thereon if there shall be a public morgue situated within *two* miles of his licensed premises. 5

Payment of jurors.

5. Jurors who shall have been summoned or called upon to attend at an inquest or inquiry, and shall have attended and actually served as jurors thereon, shall, upon the jury being discharged, be entitled to receive payment for their services at the rates following, namely:—

(a.) If such juror shall have travelled more than two miles to attend such inquest or inquiry: 15

For every day on which he shall have been in attendance for more than four hours, the sum of - - - Six shillings.

For every day on which he shall have been in attendance for not exceeding four hours, the sum of - - - Four shillings and sixpence. 20

(b.) If such juror shall not have travelled more than two miles to attend such inquest or inquiry:

For every day on which he shall have been in attendance for more than four hours, the sum of - - - Five shillings. 25

For every day on which he shall have been in attendance for not exceeding four hours, the sum of - - - Three shillings and sixpence. 30