

Coroners.

be inadmissible in evidence in this Colony by reason of the same not being stamped.

2. This Act may for all purposes be cited as "*The Unstamped Instruments Act, 1858.*" Short Title.

No. VII.

AN ACT to regulate the Appointment and Duties of Coroners in the Colony of New Zealand.

CORONERS.

[28th May, 1858.]

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

1. After the passing of this Act, Coroners in the Colony of New Zealand shall be appointed as provided by this Act, and not otherwise.

Appointment of
Coroners.

2. It shall be lawful for the Governor in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, from time to time, by warrant under his hand, to appoint fit persons to be Coroners of the several districts of the Colony, who shall hold their offices during pleasure.

Governor to appoint
Coroners.

3. Every person now acting as Coroner shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act.

Persons now acting
deemed to have been
appointed under this
Act.

4. It shall also be lawful for the Governor from time to time to define the districts within which the Coroners shall respectively have jurisdiction, and any such definition to revoke or annul and the limits of such districts to alter as occasion may require: Provided always that districts already defined shall be deemed to have been defined under this Act.

Governor to define
districts.

5. Every Coroner hereafter to be appointed shall, before acting as such, take an oath well and faithfully to execute the duties of his office, which oath any Justice of the Peace is hereby authorized to administer.

Oath to be taken by
Coroners.

6. Coroners within the Colony of New Zealand shall have all such powers and privileges, and be liable to all such duties and responsibilities, as Coroners by law have or are liable to in England.

Their powers and
duties.

7. With a view to the detection and punishment of incendiarism, it shall be lawful for the Coroner of any district within which any damage shall have been done by fire, under circumstances calculated to create a suspicion that the same was not accidental, to hold an inquest for the purpose of inquiry into the origin of such fire, and the jury on such inquest shall inquire and find whether such fire was accidental or otherwise.

Coroners to hold
inquests on fires.

8. Coroners shall have similar powers in respect of inquests on fires as are hereby conferred in respect of other inquests held by them.

To have same powers
as on other inquests.

9. No Coroner shall be required to hold any inquest at a greater distance than twenty miles from his residence.

Coroner not required
to travel more than
twenty miles.

10. If it be fit that any inquest should be held during a vacancy in the office of Coroner, or during the absence of any Coroner from his district, or at a greater distance than twenty miles from the residence of any Coroner having jurisdiction, and no Coroner shall be present within a reasonable time to hold such inquest, it shall in every such case be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to hold such inquest, with full authority in respect of the same to exercise all the powers vested in Coroners.

Justice of the Peace
may hold inquests in
certain cases.

Militia.

Fees payable.

11. In respect of all inquests there shall be paid the several fees specified in the Schedule hereunto annexed. Such fees shall be paid by the Colonial Treasurer, and the fees for each inquest shall be charged against the Province within which such inquest shall be held.

Coroner in certain cases to transmit copy of evidence to nearest Resident Magistrate.

12. Whenever, upon the termination of any inquest held under this Act, a verdict of wilful murder shall have been returned, and in all other cases when it shall appear to the Coroner or Justice of the Peace holding the inquest that it would be proper that a further investigation into the circumstances attending the matter giving occasion for such inquest should take place, it shall be the duty of such Coroner or Justice of the Peace to cause a copy of the evidence taken on such inquest to be forwarded forthwith to the nearest Resident Magistrate, who shall thereupon cause such an investigation as may appear to him to be proper or necessary to be forthwith made.

Ordinance Session VII., No. 5, repealed.

13. An Ordinance enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council of New Zealand in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, intituled "*An Ordinance to regulate the Appointment and Duties of Coroners in the Colony of New Zealand,*" is hereby repealed.

Short Title.

14. This Act may for all purposes be cited as "*The Coroners' Act, 1858.*"

SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
To the Coroner or Justice of the Peace holding any inquest under this Act, for every such inquest	2	2	0
Mileage for inquests held at a distance exceeding one mile from the residence of the person holding the same, per mile (one way)	0	1	6
To the person employed to summon a jury, not being a paid servant of the Government, any sum not exceeding	0	12	0
To a medical witness for giving evidence	1	1	0
Ditto for a <i>post mortem</i> examination when required in writing, by the Coroner or Justice of the Peace holding such inquest	2	2	0

No. VIII.

AN ACT for raising a Militia within the Colony.

[28th May, 1858.]

MILITIA.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the European population of New Zealand should be trained to the use of arms so as to form an effective military force for the defence of the lives and property of Her Majesty's subjects within the Colony:

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

Power to Governor to call together Militia.

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor to call together arm and array as a Militia such persons as are hereinafter mentioned, and, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, to cause them to be trained and exercised accordingly at such times and places as shall seem meet.

Governor to constitute Militia districts.

2. It shall also be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time to constitute throughout the Colony, or in any part thereof, Militia Districts, and such districts from time to time to abolish and the boundaries thereof to vary, and to designate the Militia of any such district