

CORONERS.

ANALYSIS.

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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 authority of the same, as follows:—

Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Coroners Act, 1907, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Coroners Act, 1867 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act, it shall not be necessary for any Coroner when holding an inquest to have the same taken by jurors, unless the Attorney-General directs in any specified case that an inquest shall be so taken.

Inquest may be before Coroner alone.

(2.) In the absence of any such direction by the Attorney-General, a Coroner may at any inquest have the same taken either by himself or by jurors, as he thinks fit in the particular case.

3. Where in accordance with this Act an inquest is taken by a Coroner without jurors, the proceedings thereat shall in all respects be taken as nearly as practicable as if the inquest were taken by jurors, and the finding of the Coroner shall for all purposes have the like effect as the finding of a jury; and all references in the principal Act or in any other Act to the verdict or finding of a Coroner's jury shall be deemed to apply also to the finding of a Coroner under this Act, and such Coroner shall have the like powers in respect of such finding by himself as Coroners now have in respect of the finding of a jury.

Proceedings before Coroner.

4. (1.) In any inquest touching the manner of the death of any person it shall not be necessary for any Coroner or for any juror to view the body of such person.

Not necessary for Coroner or jury to view body.

(2.) Nothing in this section shall affect the powers of a Coroner with respect to the body of any person in respect of whose death an inquest is held or intended to be held.

(3.) Section six of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1902, is hereby repealed.

Repeal.

Person interested
in inquest may
attend and examine
witnesses.

5. (1.) At any inquest any person who, in the opinion of the Coroner, has a sufficient interest in the subject or result of such inquest may attend personally or by counsel, and may examine and cross-examine witnesses, provided that such examination and cross-examination be relevant to the subject of such inquest and be conducted according to the law and practice of Coroners' inquests. 5

(2.) When any inquest is held touching the manner of the death of any person who was at the date of his death a member of any industrial union registered under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1905, a representative of the said industrial union shall be deemed to have a sufficient interest in the result of such inquest within the meaning of this section. 10

Deputy Coroner or
Justice may exercise
powers of Coroner
in certain cases.

6. All the powers conferred by this Act upon a Coroner may be exercised by a Deputy Coroner or a Justice of the Peace lawfully acting as a Coroner. 15