

No. X.

An Act to empower Coroners to hold Inquests FIRE INQUESTS. concerning Fires. [10th April, 1861.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to empower the Coroners of this Colony Preamble.
to inquire into the cause and origin of Fires by which property
may be destroyed Be it enacted by the Queen'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. When any property real or personal shall be destroyed or Coroners may hold
damaged by fire the Coroner having or exercising jurisdiction at or Inquests on Fires.

Cattle Disease Prevention.

in the place where such fire shall have happened shall if he shall consider it a fit case for so doing make an Inquisition into the cause and origin of such fire.

Coroner may commit
persons found guilty
of arson.

2. If upon any such Inquisition the Coroner's Jury shall find that any person has wilfully set on fire any such property as aforesaid it shall be lawful for the Coroner in any case in which an indictable offence has thereby been committed to exercise the like authority in respect to his apprehension examination bail committal or otherwise as in the case of persons charged with murder or manslaughter.

Mode of procedure.

3. The mode of procedure in the summoning of jurors and witnesses and otherwise shall be the same upon Inquests held by virtue of this Act as upon Inquests in cases of death and all laws applicable to Inquests in cases of death and to the quashing thereof for sufficient cause by the proper officer or jurisdiction in this behalf shall extend and apply to Inquests held by virtue of this Act.
