

ANNO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. LXVIII.

An Act to provide for Payment of the Expences of holding Coroners Inquests. [15th *July* 1837.]

WHEREAS the holding of Coroners Inquests on dead Bodies is attended with divers necessary Expences, for the Payment whereof no certain Provision is made by Law, and such Expences have usually been discharged without any lawful Authority for that Purpose out of the Monies levied for the Relief of the Poor; and it is expedient to make adequate legal Provision for the Payment of such Expences: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Justices of the Peace for every County, Riding, Division, or District in *England* and *Wales*, in General or Quarter Sessions assembled, shall, at the General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden next after the passing of this Act, or at some subsequent General or Quarter Sessions, and the Town Council of every Borough having a Coroner shall at the Quarterly Meeting of such Council which shall be holden next after the passing of this Act, or at some subsequent Quarterly Meeting thereof, make or cause to be made a Schedule of the several Fees, Allowances, and Disbursements which, on the holding of any Inquest on any dead Body within such County, Riding, Division, District, or Borough, may be lawfully paid and made by the Coroner holding such Inquest (other than the Fees payable to Medical Witnesses under and by virtue of an Act passed in the last Session of

Schedule to be made of Fees payable on holding Inquests.

6 & 7 W. 4. c. 89.

Parliament, intituled *An Act to provide for the Attendance and Remuneration of Medical Witnesses at Coroners Inquests*); and it shall be lawful for such Justices in General or Quarter Sessions assembled, and for such Town Council at any such Quarterly Meeting as aforesaid, from Time to Time to alter and vary such Schedule as to such Justices and Town Council respectively may seem fit; and the said Justices and Town Council respectively shall cause a Copy of every such Schedule to be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace of such County, Riding, Division, District, or Borough, and one other Copy thereof to be delivered to every Coroner acting in and for such County, Riding, Division, District, or Borough as aforesaid; and whenever any Inquest shall be holden on any dead Body the Coroner holding the same shall immediately after the Termination of the Proceedings advance and pay all Expences reasonably incurred in and about the holding thereof, not exceeding the Sums set forth in the said Schedule, and which Sums so advanced and paid shall be repaid to the said Coroner in manner herein-after mentioned: Provided always, that until such Schedule as aforesaid shall have been made the Coroner shall advance and pay, at his Discretion, all reasonable Expences of holding every Inquest within the Limits of his Jurisdiction, and shall be repaid the Amount thereof, in the same Manner as if the Sums so paid had been included in a Schedule duly made according to the Provisions of this Act.

Coroners to pay Medical Witnesses.

II. And be it enacted, That so much of the said Act passed in the last Session of Parliament as directs the Coroner to make out an Order on the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish in which any Death shall have happened for Payment of the Remuneration or Fee payable under the Provisions of that Act to any Medical Practitioner, and as directs such Churchwardens and Overseers to pay the same out of the Funds collected for the Relief of the Poor of such Parish, shall be and the same is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the Coroner shall, immediately after the Termination of the Proceedings at any Inquest, advance and pay such Remuneration or Fee to every Medical Witness summoned under the Provisions of the said Act, and the Amount thereof shall be repaid to the said Coroner in manner herein-after mentioned.

Coroners of Counties to lay their Accounts before the Sessions, and Coroners of Boroughs to lay them before the Town Council.

III. And be it enacted, That every Coroner acting in and for any County, Riding, Division, or District shall, within Four Months after holding any Inquest, cause a full and true Account of all Sums paid by him under the Provisions of this Act, including all Sums paid to any Medical Witness as aforesaid, to be laid before the Justices of the Peace of such County, Riding, Division, or District in General or Quarter Sessions assembled, or at any Adjournment thereof; and every Coroner of any Borough shall, within Four Months after holding any Inquest, cause a full and true Account of all Sums paid by him under the Provisions of this Act, including as aforesaid, to be laid before the Town Council of such Borough; and all such Accounts shall be accompanied by such Vouchers as under the Circumstances may to such Justices or Council respectively seem reasonable; and such Justices or Council respectively may, if they shall think fit, examine the said Coroner on Oath as to such Account, and

on being satisfied of the Correctness thereof such Justices or Council respectively shall make an Order on the Treasurer of the said County, Riding, Division, or District, or of the said Borough (as the Case may be), for Payment to the said Coroner not only of the Sum due to him on such Account, but also of a Sum of Six Shillings and Eight-pence for every Inquest holden by him as aforesaid, over and above all other Fees and Allowances to which he is now by Law entitled; and the Treasurer of any County, Riding, Division, or District on whom any such Order shall be made shall, out of the Monies in his Hands arising from the County Rates, and the Treasurer of any Borough on whom any such Order shall be made shall, out of the Monies in his Hands on account of the Borough Fund, pay to the said Coroner the Sum mentioned in such Order, without any Abatement or Deduction whatever; and every such Treasurer shall, on passing his Accounts, be allowed all Sums which he shall pay in pursuance of any such Order as aforesaid.

The Coroner to be repaid out of the County Rates or the Borough Fund.

IV. And be it enacted, That this Act and the several Provisions herein contained shall extend and be applicable to the City of *London* and the Town and Borough of *Southwark*.

Act applicable to London.

V. And be it enacted, That this Act may be altered or repealed by any Act in this present Session of Parliament.

Act may be altered.

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