Z. 346.

BILL.

An Act to prevent the cruel and improper treatment of Cattle and other Animals, and to amend the Law relating to impounding the same.

WHEREAS accidents have arisen from improperly driving Cattle, and many cruelties are practised by improperly driving and conveying Cattle to, at and from public markets and otherwise, and by severely beating and binding them, as well as by keeping and detaining them without food and nourishment for a considerable time, to the great and needless increase of the sufferings of dumb animals, and to the demoralization of the People, and whereby the lives and property of Her Majesty's subjects are endangered and injured: And whereas it is expedient to prevent as far as possible the cruel and improper treatment of Cattle and other animals, and to make divers provisions in regard there to: Therefore Her Majesty &c. Preamble.

That if any person shall, from and after the passing of this Act, wantonly, cruelly, or unnecessarily beat, bind, ill-treat, abuse or torture any Horse, Mare, Gelding, Bull, Ox, Cow, Heifer, Steer, Calf, Mule, Ass, Sheep, Lamb, Pig, or other Cattle, or any Poultry, or any Dog, or domestic Animal or Bird, or if any person who shall drive any Cattle or other animal shall, by negligence or ill-usage in the driving thereof be the means whereby any mischief, damage, or injury shall be done by any such cattle or other animal, every such offender being convicted of any or either of the said offences before any one Justice of the Peace for the City, Town, District or County in which any such offence shall have been committed, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay (over and above the amount of the damage or injury, if any, done thereby, which damage or injury shall and may be ascertained and determined by such Justice,) such a sum of money not exceeding nor less than with costs, as to such Justice shall seem meet; or the offender shall in default of payment be committed to the common Gaol or House of Correction for the City Town, District or County in which such offence shall have been committed there to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding fourteen days; provided that nothing in this Act contained shall prevent or abridge any remedy by action against the employer of any such offender where the amount of the damage is not sought to be recovered by virtue of this Act. Penalty on persons guilty of cruelty to animals. Damages for injury caused by such cruelty. Penalty and damages, how enforced.

II. And whereas cruelties are sometimes practised by reason of keeping and detaining Horses, horned Cattle, Pigs, and other cattle and animals impounded and confined without food, water and shelter, for a length of time, for remedy thereof, be it enacted, that from and after the passing of Cattle, &c., impounded to be supplied with food, water and shelter.