

Warrant.

County of ———, } To the Constables of the Township of
To wit: } ———, in the County of ———.

By virtue of my office, these are in Her Majesty's name to require and command you, immediately upon sight hereof, to summon and warn twenty-four good and lawful men of your Township to be and appear before me, A.B., gentleman, one of the Coroners of the County aforesaid, at the house of N.N., in the Township aforesaid, on the ——— day of ——— instant, at the hour of ——— of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to enquire of, do, and execute all such things as on Her Majesty's behalf shall be lawfully given them in charge touching the death of H.H., and for so doing this shall be your sufficient authority. And be you then there to certify what you shall have done in the premises, and further to do and execute what in behalf of our said Lady the Queen shall be then and there enjoined you.

Given under my hand and seal this ——— day of ———, A.D. 18 —.

A.B.

[L.S.]

Coroner.

With the Warrant, it were advisable to hand to the constable selected for the particular duty the requisite number of blank summonses for service upon the jurors: we subjoin the form given in "The Canadian Constables' Assistant."^(b)

Summons.

County of ———, } By virtue of a Warrant under the hand
To wit: } and seal of A.B., Esquire, one of Her

Majesty's Coroners for this County, you are hereby summoned personally to be and appear before him as a Juror on the ——— day of ——— instant, at ——— o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, at the house of N.N., in the Township of ———, in the said County, then and there to enquire on Her Majesty's behalf, touching the death of H.H.; and further to do and execute such other matters and things as shall be then and there given you in charge, and not to depart without leave.—Thereof fail not at your peril.

Dated the ——— day of ———, A.D. 18 —.

To ———, of the }
Township of ———, } Constable of the Township of ———.
Yeoman.

If Jurors do not attend.—After being duly summoned, if a Juror does not attend the inquest, he may—after being openly called three times—be fined such a sum, not exceeding 20s., as the Coroner may see fit to impose. And the 3rd sec. of 13 & 14 Vic. c. 56, provides that the Coroner "shall make out and sign a certificate, containing the name, residence, trade or calling, of such person so making default, together with the amount of the fine imposed, and the cause of such fine, and shall transmit such certificate to the Clerk of the Peace in which such defaulter shall reside, on or before the first day of the Quarter Sessions of the Peace then next ensuing:" and that the party fined

may not be put to unnecessary trouble or expense, and to give him an opportunity of paying the same, the Act further provides that the Coroner "shall cause a copy of such certificate to be served on the person so fined, by leaving it at his residence, within a reasonable time after such inquest." It is discretionary with the Coroner to impose the fine for non-attendance, but—unless to make an example and thereby possibly prevent delay and inconvenience at future inquests—he would hardly exercise the power where a sufficient number had assembled.

Opening the Court.—On the day, and at the time and place named in the Warrant, the Coroner, Constable and Jurors, must all attend. The Constable first makes return of the Warrant, when, after being satisfied that a sufficient number of Jurors are assembled, the Coroner causes the Court to be duly opened. This is done by the Constable making proclamation in the following form:—

Oyez—Oyez—Oyez,

You good men of the County of ———, who have been summoned to appear here this day, to inquire for and on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, when, how, where, and by what means H.H. came to his death, answer to your names as you shall be called, upon the pain and peril that shall fall thereon.

The Coroner then calls over the Roll returned by the Constable, and marks off such Jurors as make answer. There is no limit to the number of Jurors, so that all who are summoned and attend are usually sworn in, and it is the better course, as, where an adjournment is necessary, all the Jurors might not—from sickness or other unavoidable cause—be able to meet again; but the inquest *must be found by twelve at least.*^(k) Before administering the oath to the Jurors, the Coroner requests them to choose their Foreman: this being done, the Coroner administers the following oath:—

FOREMAN'S OATH.

"You shall diligently enquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be here given you in charge on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of H.H. now lying dead, of whose body you shall have the view: you shall present no man for hatred, malice, or ill will, nor spare any through fear, favour or affection; but a true verdict give according to the evidence: So help you God."

Before this oath is administered, however, the Coroner should specially direct the attention of the other Jurors, saying:—"Gentlemen, hearken to your Foreman's oath: for the oath he is to take on his part, you, and each of you, are severally to observe and keep on your part." After the Foreman is sworn, the Coroner proceeds to swear in the rest of the Jurors—usually four at a time:—