

(CORRECTED COPY.)

An Act to authorize investigations in cases of accident by Fire, and to repeal the Act authorizing such investigations in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the cause of every fire by which any house or other building in any City or incorporated Town or Village in this Province, may be wholly or partly consumed, should be ascertained, in order to the adoption of such measures as may be requisite for diminishing the frequency of such fires; and for that purpose to repeal the Act hereinafter mentioned, and make other and more general provision instead thereof; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows: Preamble.

I. The Act passed in the eighteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intitled, *An Act to authorize investigation in cases of accident by fire in Quebec and Montreal*, is hereby repealed; Provided nevertheless, that all investigations pending under the said Act when this Act shall come into force, shall be continued and completed as if this Act had not been passed. 18 V. c. 157,
repealed.
Pending cases
saved.

II. It shall be the duty of the Coroner within whose jurisdiction any City, or incorporated Town, or incorporated Village, in this Province, shall lie, whenever any fire shall occur, whereby any house or other building in such City, Town, or Village shall be wholly or in part consumed, to institute an inquiry into the cause or origin of such fire, and whether it was kindled by design, or was the result of negligence or accident, and to act according to the result of such inquiry; and for the purpose aforesaid such Coroner shall summon and bring before him all persons whom he may deem capable of giving information or evidence touching or concerning such fire, and shall examine such persons on oath, (administering such oath to them,) and shall reduce their examinations to writing, and return the same to the Clerk of the Peace for the District or County within which they shall have been taken: Provided always, that it shall not be the duty of any Coroner to institute an inquiry into the cause or origin of any fire or fires by which any house or other building is wholly or partly consumed, nor shall such inquiry be had, until it has first been made to appear to such Coroner that there is reason to believe that such fire was the result of culpable or negligent conduct or design, or occurred under such circumstances as in the interests of justice and for the due protection of property to require an investigation. Coroner to inquire into the origin of fires in Cities, Towns, and Villages.

Evidence to be taken on oath.

Proviso:
Such inquiry not to take place except under certain circumstances.

III. Such Coroners shall further be empowered in their discretion, or in conformity with the written requisition of any Agent of an Insurance Company, or of any three householders in the vicinity of such fire, to impanel a jury chosen from among householders resident in the vicinity of such fire, to hear the evidence that may be adduced touching or con- Jury may be impanelled in certain cases.