

APPOINTMENT OF CORONERS.

Province of Quebec.

After the cession of Canada to England, the British criminal law became common law for Canada, and the first coroner's commission was granted, on the 28th day of July, 1767, to one John Burke, in the district of Montreal, by the Lieutenant Governor Guy Carleton, whose functions at that date were to replace, in case of absence or death, the Governor General, who was at that moment General Murray.

In the province of Quebec, coroners are even yet appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council by virtue of common law, for our statutes have no provisions as to the mode of appointing coroners.

Consequently, we may presume that in our Province the judges of the Court of King's Bench, in appeal, have, by virtue of their office—"vitute officii"—authority to act as coroners throughout the Province of Quebec.