

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the fourteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1832.

2 William IV – Chapter 11

An Act to appropriate, a certain sum of money for the erection of a Bridge over the River Saint Maurice. (25th February, 1832.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.

Whereas the passage of the River Saint Maurice, near the Town of Three Rivers [Trois-Rivières], and on the highroad from Québec to Montreal, is at all times attended with delay and difficulty, and at certain seasons with great danger, while at others it becomes almost impracticable, and whereas, under the authority of a certain Act, passed in the tenth and eleventh years of the Reign of His late Majesty, a pier has been erected in the deepest part of the channel of the said River, and the practicability of erecting a secure and permanent Bridge over the said River has been fully ascertained: May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Lower-Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great-Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Québec, in North America,' and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province;" —And it is hereby enacted by the authority of same, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, to appoint three Commissioners for the purpose of carrying this Act into effect, and from time to time to remove them or any of them, and to appoint others in their stead.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Commissioners shall cause a good and substantial Bridge to be erected across the said River Saint Maurice, in the District of Three Rivers, from the land of one Joseph Montmenil, in the Parish of Three Rivers, to the Isle Saint Christophe, and thence across the northeastern channel of the said River to the land of one George Rocheleau, in the Parish of Le Cap de la Magdeleine, and for that purpose the said Commissioners, or any two of them, shall as soon as possible after their appointment, give public notice in one news paper printed and published in the Cities of Québec and Montreal, respectively and in the Town of Three Rivers if such there then be, and in the news paper printed and published in the District of Saint Francis [Saint-François], for the space of three weeks in both the English and French languages, of the place where the said Bridge is to be erected, and of the place where any further information respecting the said Bridge may be obtained, and by such notice shall require all persons willing to contract for the erection of the said Bridge and its approaches, and for furnishing materials for the same, to give in detailed plans of the manner in which they propose to construct the

said Bridge, and a description thereof in writing, with their proposals also in writing, and the names of two or more good and sufficient sureties, and that such plans and proposals must be sent to the Commissioners within sixty days after the date of such notice; and if upon such notice any proposals shall be so made to the said Commissioners, such proposals, and the plans and names of sureties given in with the same, as shall by the said Commissioners be deemed most advantageous for the public, shall after the expiration of the said term of sixty days and with all due diligence be submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, for his approval, and if the same shall be approved by him, the said Commissioners, or any two of them, may, by an instrument in writing, contract and agree with the persons whose plans and proposals shall have been approved of as aforesaid, and with the persons who shall be his or their sureties in that behalf for erecting and making the said Bridge and its approaches, and for furnishing materials therefor, according to the plan so approved of, and in such instrument the said Commissioners shall and may make and enter into all such covenants and agreements as shall be necessary for carrying this Act into effect: Provided always that the whole sum payable to such person or persons by virtue of such contract, shall not exceed the sum appropriated by this Act. Provided always, that the person or persons contracting with the said Commissioners for the erection of the said Bridge shall give good and sufficient security against the occurrence of accidents arising from imperfection in the work, and that the said Bridge shall last during three years after the completion thereof and its reception by the said Commissioners.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for defraying the expenses of making and erecting the said Bridge: and its approaches, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, out of any unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, to advance to the said Commissioners a sum not exceeding six thousand pounds currency; Provided always, that a copy of the instrument in writing by which the erecting and making of the said Bridge and its approaches, shall be contracted for, shall be deposited by the said Commissioners in the office of the Inspector General of Public Provincial Accounts, and that no sum of money shall at any time be advanced to the said Commissioners, until the advance thereof shall be necessary to enable them to defray expenses actually incurred, or to comply with the conditions of the said instrument, and provided further that the sum or the amount of the several sums so advanced in any one year, shall not exceed the sum of three thousand pounds currency.

IV. And whereas it is necessary to provide for the maintaining and repairing of the said Bridge and its approaches: be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when and so soon as the said Bridge shall be erected and built, and made fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages, there shall be paid for Pontage, as and in the name of Toll, before any passage over the said Bridge shall be permitted, the following sums, that is to say: for every coach or other four-wheeled carriage, with the driver and four persons or less, drawn by two horses or other beasts of draught, one shilling currency; for every chaise, cart, calash or other two-wheeled carriage, or cariole, or other carriage, with the driver and two persons or less, drawn by two horses or other beasts of draught, sixpence, currency; and drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, fourpence currency;

for every person on horseback, twopence currency; for every horse, mare, gelding, mule or ass, twopence currency; for every loot passenger, one halfpenny currency; for every hog, goat, sheep, calf or lamb, one halfpenny currency; and for every bull, ox, cow, and all other horned and neat cattle, twopence currency; and the said Tolls shall be, and the same are hereby vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for ever, for the perpetual repairing and maintaining of the said Bridge.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall, be allowed to the Commissioners, by whom, and under whose superintendance the said Bridge and its approaches shall have been erected and made, such sum as shall be sufficient to defray their actual disbursements in managing, conducting and superintending the same in the manner hereby required, which sum shall be ascertained by an account rendered in writing, and sworn to by such Commissioners; or one of them, before any one Justice of the Peace of His Majesty, and such Justice of the Peace is hereby required and empowered to administer the necessary oath; Provided always, that such sum shall in no case exceed the sum of twenty five pounds currency.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Commissioners shall within fifteen days after the opening of each Session of the Provincial Parliament, lay before each branch of the Legislature, a detailed account of their proceedings under this Act.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person to whom shall be entrusted the expenditure of any portion of the monies hereby appropriated, shall make up detailed accounts of such expenditure, showing the sum advanced to the accountant, the sum actually expended, the balance (if any) remaining in his hands, and the amount of the monies hereby appropriated to the purpose for which such advances shall have been made, remaining unexpended in the hands of the Receiver General; and that every such account shall be supported by Vouchers therein distinctly referred to by numbers corresponding to the numbering of Items in such account: and shall be made up to, and closed on the tenth day of April and tenth day of October in each year, during which such expenditure shall be made, and shall be attested before a Justice of the Court of King's Bench or a Justice of the Peace; and shall be transmitted to the Officer whose duty it shall be to receive such account, within fifteen days next after the expiration of the said periods respectively.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when the said Bridge shall be completed, the Commissioners for the erection thereof, shall appoint a Toll Gatherer to receive the Toll hereby established, and shall fix the place where he shall receive the same, and the said Toll Gatherer whensoever by the said Commissioners required so to do, shall render them a just and true account under oath of all such monies as he shall have received as such Toll Gatherer, which oath every such Commissioner is hereby authorized and required to administer, and that the said Commissioners, or any two of them, shall fix and determine the amount of the remuneration which the said Toll Gatherer shall receive for his services in and about the collecting of such Toll.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the appointment of such Toll Gatherer so to be appointed shall endure for the space of two years, at the expiration of which the Tolls of the said Bridge shall be sold and adjudged by such Commissioner to the highest bidder at the door of the Parish Church of Three Rivers for a space of two years after three weeks public notice to be previously read and affixed at such Church door, and so on successively at the expiration of every two years.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the due application of the monies appropriated by this Act, shall be accounted for to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the time being, in such manner and form as His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors shall direct: and that a detailed account of the expenditure of all such monies, shall be laid before the several branches of the Provincial Legislature within the first fifteen days of the next Session thereof.