

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 49

An Act to appropriate certain sums of money for ascertaining the practicability of ensuring the annual formation of an Ice Bridge from Québec to the South Shore, in the manner proposed by John Le Breton, and for remunerating him in the event of his success therein. (25th February, 1832.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.

Whereas the inhabitants of the City of Québec and neighbouring parts, are greatly benefitted by receiving an increased supply of produce whenever the River Saint Lawrence is frozen over, between Québec and the opposite South Shore, so as to afford for some weeks together a safe communication between the two shores; and that it has been represented by John Le Breton, Esquire, that he has devised a mode by which the formation of an Ice Bridge, capable of affording the means of such communication can be effected annually, and that it is expedient to ascertain the efficacy of the mode by which it is proposed to attain a result which would prove so extensively beneficial to the inhabitants of the City of Québec, and neighbouring parts;—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 of 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 the same, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of the Province, by a warrant or warrants under his hand and out of any unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, a sum not exceeding three hundred pounds currency, and to place the same in the hands of Commissioners, to be by them applied to the purposes of this Act.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Commissioners shall from time to time, pay out of the said monies such sum or sums as shall be necessary to purchase the materials and defray the expense of the labour required for carrying into effect under the superintendence of the said John Le Breton, the plan of him the said John Le Breton, for causing an Ice Bridge to be formed over the said River Saint Lawrence, between the City of Québec and the South Shore.

III. And whereas it would be just to secure to the said John Le Breton, during his natural life, some remuneration in the event of his succeeding in his endeavour, to render so valuable a

service to the public as that above mentioned; be it is therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or person administering the Government of this Province, by warrant under his hand, to take out of any unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, a sum not exceeding two hundred pounds currency, in each and every year during the natural life of the said John Le Breton, in which, by means of the said plan, such Ice Bridge shall be formed between the fifteenth day of December and the first day of February of each and every year after the present year, and at any time before the first day of March of the present year, and shall afford a safe intercourse and conveyance of merchandize and effects in winter carriages, between the City of Québec and the South Shore, during at least eight days successively, and to pay the same to the said John Le Breton, as a remuneration for such valuable service.

IV. 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 advance 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 the 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.

V. 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.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any person who shall wilfully loosen or detach any portion, of the Battures or who shall wilfully injure or destroy any part of the apparatus or materials formed or used by the said John Le Breton or by any other person for the purpose of carrying his said plan into effect, shall on being convicted of such offence in due course of law before any Court of Record or of Criminal Jurisdiction in the District of Québec, be liable to be imprisoned in the common gaol of the said District for a term not less, than six calendar months, and not more than one year, at the discretion of the Court, or shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds currency, to be recovered by civil action before His Majesty's Court of King's Bench for the said District, and one moiety of such penalty shall belong to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors and shall be paid into the hands of the Receiver General for the public uses of the

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Province, and the other moiety shall belong to the person suing for the same: Provided always, that no person shall be liable to such criminal prosecution and to such criminal action for one and the same offence.