

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the fourteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1831.

1 William IV – Chapter 16

An Act to enable His Majesty to acquire the property of the Episcopal Palace at Quebec, and of the Ground thereunto attached, for the Public uses of the Province. (31st March, 1831.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

Whereas by reason of the augmentation of the number of Representatives of the several Counties of this Province, and the increase of Parliamentary business, it has become expedient that the building commonly known by the name of the Episcopal Palace, in which the Sessions of the Provincial Parliament are now held, should be enlarged, and whereas in order to guard against loss with regard to the expences incurred and to be incurred about the said Building, and the Ground thereunto attached, it is expedient that the same should become Public Property, on the terms and conditions made and proposed by the Very Reverend Bernard Claude Panet, the present Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Quebec, dated the second day of March, in the present year, by which he declares himself willing to cede to the Province the property of the said Episcopal Palace, and of the Ground belonging thereto, on condition that an annual and perpetual Ground Rent, not subject to redemption, be paid by the Province, to the said present Catholic Bishop, and to the Bishops his Successors, or to the person having the administration of the said Diocese for the time being, which said Ground Rent shall be for ever considered Episcopal Property, and shall represent the said Ground and Building, and have forever the same destination as the said Episcopal Palace and Ground would have had, as the same is recognized and set forth in the Letters Patent of His Most Christian Majesty, bearing date the thirtieth day of May, in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty-three:—And whereas Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Lower Canada, have resolved to make provision for the payment of the said Rent, and to appropriate such: sums of Money as may be necessary to enable your Majesty to pay the same:—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 Quebec, 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, to appoint three Commissioners for carrying this Act into effect.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Commissioners shall, so soon as may be after their appointment, cause a correct plan to be made of the Ground whereon the said building is erected, and of the whole Ground thereunto attached, according to the several Plans and Title Deeds relating to the same, and more especially according to the Plan and Proces Verbal, made and drawn up by Lemaitre Lamorille, Surveyor, recognized by a Judgment rendered by Monsieur Bigot, then Intendant of the Province, hearing date the twenty-third day of January, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when, and so soon as the said Plan shall have been made, it shall be lawful for the Catholic Bishop of Quebec, or for the person having the administration of the said Diocese of Quebec, to surrender and transfer to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, the property of the said Ground and Building as shown and designated in the Plan to be so made as aforesaid, to be vested in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, for the Public uses of the Civil Government of the Province for ever, by a Notarial Instrument, executed in due form of Law and the conditions of the said surrender and transfer shall be mentioned in the said Instrument and shall be:—That there shall be paid to the Catholic Bishop of Quebec, and his Successors as such, or to the person having the administration of the said Diocese of Quebec, for the time being, out of the Public Monies of the Province, a perpetual and annual Ground Rent, not subject to redemption, of one thousand pounds sterling, per annum:—That the said Rent shall be paid by warrant under the hand of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, by half yearly payments:—That the said Rent shall be Episcopal property, and shall represent the said Ground and Building, and shall as such have to all intents and purposes the same destination as the said Ground and Building would have had if such surrender and transfer had never been made.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when the said Notarial Instrument shall have been so made as aforesaid, and executed between the said Catholic Bishop of Quebec, his Successor, or the person having the administration of the said Diocese of Quebec for the time being, and the said Commissioners shall execute the same in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and the said Instrument shall have full force and effect according to the tenor thereof, and to the true sense and meaning of this Act, any law, usage or custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that after the said Instrument shall have been made and executed, it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, by warrant under his hand, to authorize the payment of the said sum of one thousand pounds sterling, out of any unappropriated monies in the hands of the Receiver General, during each and every year, by half yearly payments, to be made according to the tenor of the said Notarial Instrument.

VI. 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

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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.