

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 25

An Act to make further provision for preventing the introduction of Contagious and Pestilential Diseases into this Province. (31st March, 1831.)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

Whereas the Provisions of An Act passed in the thirty-fifth year of the Reign of His Majesty, King George the Third, chapter five, for preventing, the introduction of Pestilential Diseases into this Province, have proved insufficient, and it is expedient to make further provision for that purpose;—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 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, may, by an Instrument under his hand and seal, appoint three Commissioners for the management and direction of the establishment commenced at Point Levy [Pointe-Lévy], under the denomination of a "Temporary Fever Hospital, for the reception of persons infected with Contagious Diseases."

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Hospital shall be an Hospital for the reception of persons infected with Typhus Fever, Yellow Fever, Scarlet Fever, Plague, Small Pox, Measles, or other disease reputed Contagious, the admission of which persons into, and their remaining in the Hospitals of the City of Quebec, might prove pernicious to the health of the inhabitants of the said City. And that all Patients received in the said Hospital, shall be under the superintendence and controul of the health officer, appointed under the Act passed in the tenth and eleventh years of the Reign of His late Majesty, chapter eighteen, intituled, "An Act for the establishment of a temporary Fever Hospital, for the reception of persons infected with Contagious Diseases" or of the suc-sor or successors in office of such Health officer.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that on the arrival of any Vessel in the Harbour of Quebec, the Health officer whenever it shall be practicable so to do, shall immediately repair on board and inspect such Vessel, in order to ascertain whether among the passengers, officers or crew, there be any person infected with such disease; and

whenever he shall find any such case, he shall order the Master of the Vessel in which it may occur, to cause every person so infected, to be conveyed to the said Hospital.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Master of every Vessel, shall by every means in his power, assist the Health officer in his visit, inspection, and operations; and such Master for every refusal or neglect to give such assistance or to cause to be conveyed to the Hospital any person so infected, found in his Vessel, or to comply with any lawful order of the Health Officer to him given, in pursuance of this Act, shall for any such offence incur a penalty of twenty-five pounds currency.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the Health Officer, when in the execution of his duty, shall be entitled to the like treatment and protection as the Harbour Master of Quebec, when in the execution of his duty is entitled to, under the law and the regulations of the Trinity House.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no Master of any Vessel arriving in the Harbour of Quebec, shall permit any steerage passenger, Mariner, or apprentice, to land or to leave his Vessel, until he shall have obtained from the Health Officer a certificate that there is no contagious disease in his Vessel, under a penalty of ten pounds currency.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any Vessel shall arrive from Gibraltar, or from any port or place in the Mediterranean, or from any place in which any Contagious Disease may have prevailed while such Vessel was there, or during the voyage shall have touched at any such port or place; whenever also, any Vessel from whatsoever place arriving, shall contain the Miasmata of any Contagious or Pestilential Disease, the said Health Officer shall apply the Chloride of any Oxide to the destruction of such principle of infection, or shall take such other means for that purpose as he shall deem the most effectual; and every Master of a Vessel in which such Health Officer shall deem it expedient so to proceed, who shall refuse to permit the Health Officer or his assistants so to do, or obstruct or not assist him in so doing, shall for every such offence incur a penalty of ten pounds currency.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government, to advance and pay during the present year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, into the hands of the said Commissioners, by a warrant or warrants under his hand, out of any unappropriated Monies in the hands of the Receiver General, at the disposal of the Provincial Legislature, a sum not exceeding seven hundred and fifty pounds currency, for the hire of one house or more, to be used as such Temporary Hospital, for the purchase of a Boat, and of articles-of diet for the sick, Beds and Bedding, Kitchen Utensils, and Medicines, and for the payment of servants wages, including those of four men who shall be under the orders of the Health Officer, conduct the boat and assist him in visiting Vessels, and also for paying a fair and reasonable remuneration to such Health Officer, for his services, and for the purchase of the

articles by him required, for the disinfection of such Vessels and their cargoes, or part thereof.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the penalties hereby imposed shall be sued for and recovered before the Justices of the Peace for the District of Quebec, in their Weekly Sittings, upon the oath of any one or more credible witness or witnesses, other than the informer, and shall be levied with costs by warrant of distress under the hand and seal of the Justices before whom such conviction shall have been obtained, and that one moiety of every such penalty shall be for the use of His Majesty, and the other shall belong to the informer.

X. 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 for the purpose for which such advance shall have been made, remaining unexpended in the hands of the Receiver General; and 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, 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.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the 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.