

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the third session of the fourteenth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: John Carleton Fisher & William Kemble, Law Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1833.

3 William IV – Chapter 25

An Act to establish a Fire Society in the Borough of Three Rivers, and to suspend two certain Ordinances as far as they relate to the said Borough. (3d April, 1833)

Whereas it is expedient to provide more ample and efficacious means for preventing conflagration in the Borough of Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], and in case of conflagration, for more speedily arresting the progress thereof, and whereas divers inhabitants of the said Borough have by their Petition to the Legislature, prayed that a Fire Society may be established therein for the purposes aforesaid: Be it therefore 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 late 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 Ordinance passed in the seventeenth year of the Reign of George the Third, intituled, "An Ordinance for preventing accidents by Fire," and another Ordinance passed in the thirtieth year of the said Reign, intituled, "An Act or Ordinance to amend an Act or Ordinance for preventing accidents by Fire, passed in the seventeenth year of His Majesty's Reign," shall be and they are hereby suspended, while this Act shall be in force as far as they concern the Town or Borough of Three Rivers.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be in the Borough of Three Rivers an Association which shall be called the "Fire Society of Three Rivers," and that all the clauses, provisions and enactments of a certain Act passed in the ninth year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Fourth, chapter fifty-seven, intituled, "An Act to suspend for a limited time, certain Ordinances therein mentioned, as far as the same relate to the City of Montreal, and to establish a Society therein for preventing accidents by Fire," shall be and they are hereby with the exception of such parts thereof only as may be contrary to this Act extended, and shall be applicable to the said Borough and to the said Fire Society of Three Rivers, during the time this Act shall be in force: Provided always that no amendments made or to be made to the said Act by any subsequent Act, shall be so extended by of this Act.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the lists of proprietors from among whom the members of the said Society shall be chosen, shall be made by the Grand Jury of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden at the said Borough, in the month of July, and presented to the Justices of the Peace sitting in said

Session. Provided also that the number of names contained in every such list shall be fourteen, and that the number of persons who shall be chosen by the said Justices to be members of the said Society shall be seven: Provided also that of the members appointed at the first general appointment, four shall remain in office during two years, and three during one year only, and the members of the said Society shall draw lots to determine which three members shall retire from office at the end of the first year: Provided also that the three or four (as the case may be) senior members shall every year retire from office and that their places shall be supplied in the manner prescribed by the said Act. Provided also, that the resident judge of the District of Three Rivers, shall in term or in vacation have all the powers with regard to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the said Society, and to the repeal or amendment thereof given by the said Act to the Court of King's Bench with regard to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Fire Society thereby established; but the same shall not be in force until they with the confirmation thereof, signed by the Prothonotary shall have been published in the newspaper published at Three Rivers (if any there shall then be) or if there be none, then in the Quebec Gazette printed by authority. Provided also that the number of volunteers to be assigned by the said Society to each Ward where there shall be Fire Engines, shall not exceed twenty-five for each large Engine, and ten for each small Engine, and that the Captain of each Ward shall (both in the first instance and in every case of vacancy) be chosen by the Volunteers assigned to the same, provided that if such Captain be not approved by the Society, another shall be appointed in his stead by the Society, at their then next meeting; and the Captain shall command such Ward. Provided also, that the Company of Volunteers formed by the Society, and who shall be present, and assist at every Fire, shall consist of twenty men and no more. Provided also that the number of Peace Officers to be appointed by the said Society to be present at fires, shall be six and no more. Provided also, that three members of the said Society shall in all cases form a quorum. Provided also, that three members of the Society shall with the concurrence of any two the inhabitants, being proprietors of real property in the said Borough, have the power of causing to be demolished or taken down all buildings and fences which they shall deem necessary to be demolished or taken down for arresting the progress of any fire, and that they shall not in consequence thereof be molested nor liable to any damages. Provided also that no inhabitant of the said Borough who shall have served as a member of the said Society, shall again be liable to serve as such at any time during the four years immediately following his retirement from office. Provided also that the Secretary Treasurer shall be the Collector of the said Society. Provided also that the settlement of the accounts of the said Society shall be advertised in the newspaper then published in Three Rivers, or if there be none so published, then in the Quebec Gazette, published by authority. Provided also, that the number of Leathern Fire Buckets to be provided by the Society, shall be one hundred. Provided also that the objection to construct the gables of houses in the manner mentioned in the said Act, shall extend to all houses to be built of brick or stone in the said Borough, and not to those to be built of wood. Provided also that it shall be lawful for any person to build a dwelling-house in wood; but no person shall kindle any fire in any wooden building or shed, unless there be a chimney therein, under a penalty of two pounds currency. Provided also that the sum which the Overseer to prevent accidents by Fire for the said Borough, shall receive annually out of the Funds of the said Society, and be paid him on the order of the

Chairman by the Secretary Treasurer, shall be twenty-five pounds currency and no more. Provided also, that the Borough of Three Rivers, for all the purposes of this Act, shall be understood to include all the ground within the limits of the Parish of Three Rivers, mentioned in the edicts or ordinances of His Most Christian Majesty, made on the third of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two.

IV. And be it further enacted by the aforesaid, that this Act shall be in force until the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, and no longer.