

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 9

An Act for improving the Internal Navigation of this Province. (3d April, 1833)

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.

Whereas it is expedient to ascertain whither it is practicable to improve the Navigation of the River Saint Lawrence in Steam-Boats or other Vessels between Lachine and the line which separates this Province from the Province of Upper Canada by means of one or more Canals, and whether it is practicable to open a Navigable Canal from Lake St. Francis [Saint-François] to the Lake of the Two Mountains [Lac des Deux-Montagnes]. 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 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, to appoint seven Commissioners, (and to appoint others in their stead, in case of death or resignation) and such Commissioners shall cause plans to be made, and levels to be taken for the purpose of ascertaining whether it be practicable to improve the navigation of the places above mentioned by means of navigable Canals or otherwise.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that such Commissioners shall elect their Chairman, and shall appoint a Secretary, to whom they shall pay such remuneration as they shall deem reasonable and proportionate to the work he may be required to perform; that the Chairman and any four Commissioners shall form a Quorum; that the Chairman may convoke a meeting of the Commissioners whenever he shall deem it necessary, and may from time to time adjourn the meeting to such other time as he shall deem proper; and that the said Commissioners shall have power to employ such and so many agents, engineers, surveyors and other persons as may be necessary to enable them to fulfill the duties imposed upon them by this Act, and to allow and pay them such sums as the said Commissioners shall think just and reasonable, for the different services performed by the persons so by them employed.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners so soon as may be after the passing of this Act, to cause those places, which may lie contiguous to the probable courses of the Canals contemplated by this Act to be

explored and examined for the purpose of ascertaining and determining the most eligible lines for the course of the same, or such other improvements as they may deem expedient; and to cause all necessary surveys and levels to be made and taken, and accurate plans of the ground to be prepared, and also to adopt and recommend the plan which shall to them appear to be the best for the construction of such Canals, or for the making of such other improvements and all such works or other measures as may be connected with and necessary to the completion and efficiency of the same.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the Commissioners to make or cause to be made with as much accuracy and minuteness as possible, calculations and estimates of the sums required for completing the said Canals according to the plans by them adopted and recommended; and to ascertain whether to any and to what amount, and upon what terms loans of money may or can be procured, for the said purposes; and to lay the said calculations, estimates, surveys, maps and plans, with a detailed and comprehensive Report of their proceedings under this Act, including the result of their enquiries with regard to the said loans, before the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person Administering the Government of the Province, who shall lay the same before the Provincial Parliament.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the Government of the Province, to issue one or more Warrants, in favor of the said Commissioners from time to time, provided the total sum for which such Warrants shall be issued, shall not exceed one thousand pounds currency.

VI. 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.

VII. 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

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branches of the Provincial Legislature, within the first fifteen days of the next Session thereof.