

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Thursday the Sixth day of February, 1812, and continued by several Prorogations to Thursday the Fifth day of February 1818, in the Fifty-Eighth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the Eighth Session of the Tenth General Assembly, convened in the said Province.

58 George III – Chapter 33

An Act in addition to, and amendment of, an Act, made in the second year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act for the appointment of Firewards, ascertaining their Duty, and for punishing Thefts and Disorders at the time of Fire.

Whereas, much injury has been done by persons breaking open doors and windows, and attempting to pull down houses, at the time of fire, without lawful authority, and under pretence of orders having been given by the proper officers so to do:

I. Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that it shall not be lawful for any person or persons at the time of fire under any pretence whatsoever, to break open the doors or windows of any dwelling house, store, shop or other building, in the town of Halifax, or to attempt to pull the same down, or to order others so to do, unless orders for so doing shall have been first given either by the owner of the house, or by at least four firewards or magistrates of said town, and any person or persons so doing shall severally forfeit and pay for every offence, each a fine of forty shillings, to be recovered as directed in and by the second section of the act of which this act is an amendment; and the person or persons so offending shall jointly or severally be answerable for all damages done the same, to be recovered in an action or actions of trespass, to be brought against him by the person or persons injured.

II. And be it further enacted, that the town of Halifax shall not be called on, or be held liable, to pay for any damage done by breaking, injuring or pulling down, any dwelling house, store, shop, or other building, in the said town of Halifax at the time of fire, unless positive orders shall have been previously given for such breaking, injuring or pulling down, by at least four magistrates or firewards of said town.

III. And be it further enacted, that no person shall be entitled to receive compensation from the said town of Halifax, for any house pulled down or begun to be pulled down, in case the same shall be on fire at the time the orders are given for pulling the same down, or if the same shall take fire during the time or carrying such orders into execution.

IV. And be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for the justices of the peace in their sessions for the town and county of Halifax, to appoint a further number, not exceeding fifteen discreet and prudent persons as engine men, in addition to the number already appointed or to be appointed under the act or acts whereof this is an amendment, and such

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persons shall be subject to the duties, and entitled to all the privileges and exemptions, imposed and granted by the said acts to fire engine men.