

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Wednesday, the First day of February, 1826, in the Seventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the Sixth Session of the Twelfth General Assembly, convened in the said Province.

7 George IV – Chapter 37

An Act to allow of the Bridge at Bridgetown, in the County of Annapolis, being made a Drawbridge.

Whereas, the increase of ship-building on the Annapolis River, above the bridge at Bridgetown, and the exportation from thence of large quantities of lumber and country produce, render it expedient that said bridge should be made a draw-bridge, in order that vessels may pass through the same.

And whereas certain persons have subscribed and made up a sum of money, for the purpose aforesaid –

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that, from and after the publication of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the justices in any general or quarter sessions of the peace, held at Annapolis Royal, in the county of Annapolis, to nominate and appoint two fit and proper persons in said county, to be supervisors for the purpose of altering the aforesaid bridge, in such manner as to convert it into a drawbridge, convenient for the passage of vessels through the same.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that the said supervisors shall not be at liberty to proceed in making such alteration until a sufficient sum to complete the same shall have been place at their disposal, and that the said supervisors shall be responsible over, and account to, the courts of sessions of the peace at Annapolis Royal aforesaid, for the due and proper completion of such alteration, and the just application of said sum for that purpose, in such manner, and within such reasonable time, as the said court may order and direct, under such penalty, not exceeding fifty pounds, as the said court may adjudge in a summary manner, to be levied by warrant of distress, issued by said court.

III. And be it further enacted, that after such alteration shall have been completed, whenever it may become necessary to raise the draw of said bridge, for the purpose of allowing ships, vessels, or other bulky article, to pass through the same, it shall and may be lawful for the master or other person, having the charge and direction of such ship, vessel, or other article, to cause the draw of the said bridge, to be raised, for the purpose aforesaid, replacing the same after the passing through of such ship, vessel or other article, in such way as may be proper to allow the passing over said bridge in usual manner. Provided always, that the said draw shall not be kept raised for the purposes aforesaid, for a longer period than fifteen minutes at any one time.

7 George IV – Chapter 37

IV. And be it further enacted, that if any such master or other person or persons having the charge or direction of the ship, vessel, or other article, passing through said bridge, or any other person or persons under whose direction the said draw may be raised, shall keep the same so raised, and without properly and carefully replacing it for passage over the same, for a longer period than fifteen minutes at any one time, (except it may be for the purpose of repairing the same under legal authority) every such person or persons, so offending, shall forfeit, for each and every time he or they shall so keep the said draw raised for such longer period, a sum not exceeding forty shillings, nor less than twenty shillings, to be adjudged in a summary way by any one or more of His Majesty's justices of the peace, in the name of our sovereign lord the king, upon the oath of one credible witness, and levied, with costs of suit, by warrant of distress, from off the goods and chattels of the offender, and paid over to the surveyors of highways at Bridgetown, to be applied to the repairs of highways.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to deprive any person or persons of the right he or they may have to recover damages for any injury sustained by the keeping up of said draw, beyond the time herein before limited, or by its not being replaced in a careful and proper manner, or by any other thing connected therewith.