

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the third session of the fourth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1807.

47 George III – Chapter 15

An Act to grant to Jean Baptiste Bedard the exclusive right and privilege of erecting Bridges in this Province, according to the models therein mentioned. (16th April, 1807.)

Whereas Jean Baptiste Bedard of the City of Quebec, Carpenter, hath invented two improved methods for the easy and fond construction of wooden Bridges, and hath made a specification of his said inventions, which said specification is hereunto annexed, and hath also deposited models of the said Bridges in the office of the Secretary of this Province of Lower Canada; and Whereas it is necessary and proper to give encouragement to all arts and inventions which may be for the public good: 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 of 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 said Jean Baptiste Bedard by himself or his deputies, servants or agents, and no other person whatsoever, shall have full power, sole privilege and authority, from time to time, and at all times hereafter until the first day of May which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one, provided the said Jean Baptiste Bedard shall so long live, to erect or cause to be erected, within the limits of this Province, any Bridge or Bridges of wood according to the said inventions of the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, for the construction of such Bridges, the models whereof are so as aforesaid deposited in the office of the Secretary of this Province of Lower Canada.

II. And to the end that the said Jean Baptiste Bedard may have and enjoy the full benefit and the sole use and exercise of the said inventions: Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons, bodies politic or corporate other than the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, and his servants, deputies and agents, shall, before the first day of May which shall be in the said year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one, if the said Jean Baptiste Bedard shall so long live, directly or indirectly, construct or erect, or cause to be constructed or erected within any part of this Province of Lower-Canada, any Bridge or Bridges according to or upon the principle of the said inventions or either of them.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person or persons, bodies politic or corporate who shall have discovered any improvement upon the said inventions or either of them, shall construct or erect, or cause to be constructed or erected any Bridge or Bridges within this Province of Lower-Canada, upon or according to the said inventions of

the said Jean Baptiste Bedard or either of them, unless some new principle shall be found to exist in such improvement.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate shall, during the existence of this Act, erect or construct, or cause to be erected or constructed any Bridge or Bridges within this Province of Lower-Canada, upon or according to the said inventions or either of them, without the consent of the said Jean Baptiste Bedard first had and obtained in that behalf in writing, unless in such Bridge or Bridges so to be built without such consent, there shall be found to exist some new principle not contained or appearing in the said models, or in the specifications to this Act annexed or either of them, such person or persons, bodies-politic or corporate so contravening shall, for every such contravention, pay as an indemnification to the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, his heirs, executors, curators or administrators, the sum of Two Hundred Pounds current money of this Province of Lower-Canada, which shall be recovered by an Action on the case founded on this Act to be brought in any of his Majesty's Courts of Kings Bench, within the Districts of Quebec, Montreal or Three Rivers [Trois-Rivières] respectively, or in any other Court having competent jurisdiction; and such Bridge or Bridges shall and may be seized and taken in execution and sold for the satisfaction and payment of any judgment which, for the cause aforesaid, shall or may be given in favor of the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, his heirs, executors, curators or administrators, as part of the goods and chattels of the person or persons against whom such judgment shall be so recovered, but subject nevertheless to any preference or priority which any other creditor or creditors of the person or persons against whom judgment shall be so obtained by the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, and subject also to all such rights as any other person or persons may, by law, be intitled to, as against the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, his heirs, executors, curators or administrators upon such Bridge or Bridges or the proceeds thereof, and the said right of the said Jean Baptiste Bedard to take such Bridge or Bridges in execution shall be over and above any other legal recourse which he the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, his heirs, executors, curators or administrators may legally have against the other property of any person or persons so offending for the payment of the same, or against the body or bodies of such person or persons. Provided always, that to entitle the said Jean Baptiste Bedard to the exclusive benefits and advantages secured to him by the present Act, it shall be the duty of the said Jean Baptiste Bedard to cause the annexed specification to be published at full length in English and in French in the Quebec Gazette for and during the space of three months next After the passing of this Act, together with an advertisement giving public notice that each and every person infringing upon the exclusive privilege so granted to him for the space of fourteen years, from and after the passing of this Act, in case the said Jean Baptiste Bedard shall so long live, will thereby become liable in the sum of Two Hundred Pounds, current money of this Province, as an indemnification to the said Jean Baptiste Bedard, his heirs and successors, curators or administrators for every such infringement.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if, After the passing of this Act, and during the existence thereof, it shall appear that any Bridge or Bridges has or have been heretofore built, or any plan or plans shall have been published which has or have disclosed

or made known the mode, manner or art of building Bridges according to or upon the principles of the said inventions or models so deposited with the said Secretary of this Province, or if the said models shall be found to be an improvement only upon the principles of any such Bridge or Bridges so heretofore built, or of any such plan or plans so heretofore published, then and in any such case this present Statute, and every clause, matter and thing therein contained, shall cease and determine and become absolutely null and void, any thing herein before contained to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Specification of the models referred to in an Act of the Provincial Parliament granting to Jean Baptiste Bedard the exclusive right of building Bridges according to the said models deposited in the office of the Secretary of this Province.

The model No. 1. is formed by three arches, each of which is composed of three segments of a circle and of six or a greater or less number of arches, composed of two segments of a circle, each arch formed of three segments of a circle is tied by the means of Radii or Spokes into which are inserted, by tennons of two or three inches, the pieces of timber that form the segments of circles, and also by other pieces of wood in form of cross braces, each end whereof is also let in by tennons of two or three inches into the Radii or Spokes.—Each such formed of two segments of circles is bound in the same manner. One arch composed of three segments of circles is to be placed at each side of the bridge and the other in the middle, and the arches composed of two segments of circles are to occupy the intermediate spaces; all these arches are bound together by diagonal and horizontal ties. The floor is laid upon the middle segment of those arches that have three segments, and upon the upper segment of those arches that have only two segments, so that the upper segments of the arches that have three segments will serve as fenders or garde-corps.

The model No. 2. is formed of three arches, each of which is composed of two segments of circles bound and subtended by a stretcher, and of four or a greater or less number of arches formed by one segment of a circle bound and subtended by stretchers. Each arch composed of two segments of circles is tied by the means of Radii or Spokes of different lengths, into which is let, by tennons of two or three inches, the pieces of timber which form the segments and bound together by means of other pieces in the form of cross braces, each end whereof is also let in by tennons of two or three inches, into the parts of the Radii or Spokes between the two segments and by the means of the stretcher which is tied by iron collars at the abutments of the arch, and at the lower end of the Radii or Spokes the pieces of timber which form each stretcher are bound together at their ends by means of teeth bound and consolidated by iron collars. Each arch composed of one segment of a circle and of one stretcher is tied in the manner as aforesaid, except the cross braces.

One of the arches composed of two segments of circles must be placed at each side of the bridge, and the other in the middle, the other arches are fixed in the intermediate spaces. All those arches are bound together by diagonal or inclined ties. The floor is laid on the lower segment of the arches formed of two segments and on the segments of the other arches, so

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that the upper segments of the arches composed of two segments will serve as fenders or garde-corps.