

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the ninth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1817.

57 George III – Chapter 37

An Act to authorise Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, to build a Bridge over the River Yamaska, at the foot of the cascade, opposite the village of Saint Hyacinthe, in the County of Richelieu, to fix the Rates of Toll for passing thereon, and to provide regulations for the said Bridge. (22 March, 1817.)

Whereas Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, has with considerable expense purchased a certain lot of ground and a Bridge on props (chevalets) erected many years ago, over the River Yamaska at the foot of the cascade of the said River, opposite to the village in the Parish of Saint Hyacinthe, in the County of Richelieu, and whereas the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, by his petition in that behalf has set forth the necessity, the benefit and the additional security which the public would derive from the erection of a substantial and sufficient Toll-Bridge at the place before mentioned, instead of the present measure and incommodious Bridge on props (chevalets); 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 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 it shall be lawful for the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, and he is hereby authorised and empowered, at his own costs and charges, to erect and build a permanent, sufficient and substantial Bridge, over the said River Yamaska, at the foot of the cascade of the said River and opposite to the village in the said Parish of Saint Hyacinthe, and to erect and build one Toll-House and Turnpike with other dependencies, or near the said Bridge, and also to perform and execute all other matters and things requisite and necessary, useful or convenient for erecting and building, maintaining and supporting the said intended Bridge, Toll-House, and other dependencies, according the tenor and true meaning of this Act; and further, that for the purpose of erecting, building, maintaining and supporting the said Bridge, the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, shall, from time to time, have full power and authority to take and use the land, on either side of the place called the cascade, and there to work up or cause to be wrought up the materials and other things necessary for erecting, constructing or repairing the said Bridge accordingly: the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, and the persons by him or them employed, doing as little damage as may be, and making reasonable and just satisfaction to the respective owners and occupiers of all such lands and grounds as shall be altered, damaged or made use of for the value of such land as well as for that of the alteration or of the damages which they may cause to the proprietors, by means of or for the purpose of erecting the said Bridge and the said House as above designated; and in case of difference of opinion and dispute about the quantum of such satisfaction, the same shall be settled by His Majesty's Court of King's Bench, of

and for the District of Montreal, after a previous visitation, examination and estimation of the premises shall have been made by Experts, so be named by the parties, respectively: and in default of such nomination, by them or either of them, then by the said Court, in manner and form prescribed by Law; and the said Court is hereby authorised and empowered to hear, settle and finally determine the amount of such compensation, in consequence. Provided always, that the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs or assigns, shall not commence the erection of the said Bridge and other works by which any person may be deprived of his land or part thereof or may suffer damage before the price or value of the said land and damages estimated and settled in the manner before prescribed, shall have been paid to such person, or after such price or value shall have been offered to him or that on his refusal, the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, shall have deposited it, at the Office of the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Montreal.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Bridge and the said Toll-House, Turnpike and dependencies to be erected thereon, or near thereto, and also the ascents or approaches to the said Bridge, and all materials which shall be, from time to time, gotten or provided, for erecting, building, making or maintaining and repairing the same, shall be vested in the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs and assigns for ever. Provided, that after the expiration of fifty years, to be accounted from the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, his heirs and successors, to assume the possession and property of the said Bridge, Toll-House, Turnpike and dependencies, and the ascents and the approaches thereto, upon paying to the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns the full and entire value which the same may, at the time of such assumption, bear and be worth; and when and so soon as the said Bridge shall be erected and built, and made fit and proper for the passage of Travellers, Cattle and Carriages, and that the same shall be certified by any two or more Justices of the Peace, for the District of Montreal, after examination thereof, by three Experts, to be appointed and sworn by the said Justices, and be advertised in the Quebec Gazette, it shall be lawful for the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, from time to time and at all times, to ask, demand, receive, recover and take and for their own proper use and behoof, for Pontage, as or in the name of a Toll or Duty, before any passage over the said Bridge, shall be permitted, the several sums following, that is to say: for every Coach or other four-wheel Carriage, loaded or unloaded, with the Driver and four Persons, or less, drawn by two or more Horses, or other Beasts of draught, one shilling and six-pence, currency; for every Chaise, Calash, Chair, with two wheels or Cariole, or other such Carriage, loaded or unloaded, with the Driver and two Persons, or less, drawn, by two Horses or other Beasts of draught, eight-pence, currency; and drawn by one Horse or other Beasts of draught, six-pence, currency; for every Cart, Sled, or other such Carriage, loaded or unloaded, drawn by two Horses, Oxen or other Beast of draught, with the Driver, five-pence, currency; and if drawn by one Horse, or other Beast of draught, four-pence, currency; for every Person on foot, one penny, currency; for every Horse, Mare, Mule, or other Beast of draught, laden or unladen, three-pence, currency; for every Person on Horseback, four-pence, currency; for every Bull, Ox, Cow, and all other horned and neat Cattle, each one-penny half-penny, currency; for every Hog, Goat, Sheep, Calf or Lamb, one-half penny, currency.

III. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no Person, Horse or Carriage employed in conveying a Mail or Letters under the authority of His Majesty's Post-Office, nor for the Horses, or Carriages, laden or not laden, and Drivers attending Officers and Soldiers of His Majesty's Forces, or of the Militia, whilst upon their march or on duty, nor the said Officers, Soldiers, or any of them, nor Carriages and Drivers or Guards sent with Prisoners of any description, shall be chargeable with any Toll or Rate whatsoever. Provided also, that it shall and may be lawful for the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns to diminish the said Tolls or any of them, and afterwards, if he or they shall see fit again to augment the same, or any of them, so as not to exceed in any case the rates herein-before authorised to be taken. Provided also, that the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns shall affix or cause to be affixed, in some conspicuous place, at or near such Toll-Gate, a Table of the Rates payable for passing over the said Bridge; and so often as such rates may be diminished or augmented, he or they shall cause such alteration to be affixed, in manner aforesaid.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Tolls shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, and assigns for ever. Provided, that if His Majesty, shall in the manner herein-before mentioned, after the expiration of fifty years, from the passing of this Act, assume the possession and property of the said Bridge, Toll-House, Turnpike and conveniencies, and the ascents and approaches thereto then the said Tolls shall, from the time of such assumption, appertain and belong to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, who shall from thence-forward be substituted in the place and stead of the said Jean Marie Langlois otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs and assigns, for all and every the purposes of this Act.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person, shall forcibly pass through the said Turnpike, without paying the Toll or any part thereof; or shall interrupt or disturb the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, or any person or persons employed by him, or them, for the building or repairing the said Bridge, for making or repairing the way over the same, or any road or avenue leading thereto, every, person so offending, in each of the cases aforesaid shall for every such offence, forfeit a sum not exceeding forty shilling, currency.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that as soon as the said Bridge shall be passable and opened for the use of the public, no person or persons shall erect or cause to be erected, any Bridge or Bridges, or works, or use any Ferry for the carriage of any persons, cattle or carriages whatsoever, for hire, across the said River Yamaska, within half a league above the said Bridge, and below the said Bridge, as far as the line of the seigneury or Parish of Saint Hyacinthe, on the North side of the said River; and if any person or persons shall erect a Toll-Bridge or Toll-Bridges over the said River Yamaska, in the said limits, he or they shall pay to the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, treble the Tolls hereby imposed, for the persons, cattle and carriages, which shall pass-over such Bridge or Bridges, and if any person or persons shall, at any time, for hire or gain, pass or convey any person or persons, cattle, or carriages, across the said River, within the limits aforesaid, such offender or offenders, shall for each carriage, person or

animal so carried across forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding forty shillings currency. Provided that nothing in this Act contained, shall be construed to prevent the public from passing the said River Yamaska, at any of the Fords or in canoes, within the limits aforesaid, without gain or hire.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall maliciously pull down, burn or destroy the said Bridge, or any part thereof, or the Toll-House to be erected by virtue of this Act, every person so offending, on being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, to entitle himself to the benefits and advantages to him, by this Act granted, shall and he is hereby required, to erect and complete the said Toll-House, Turnpike and dependencies within four years from the day of the passing of this Act, and if the same shall not be completed within the time last mentioned, so as to afford a convenient and safe passage over the said Bridge, he the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, shall cease to have any right, title or claim, of, in or to the Tolls hereby imposed, which shall, from thence-forward belong to His Majesty; and the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, shall not by the said Tolls, or in any other manner or way, be entitled to any reimbursement of the expences he may have incurred in and about the building of the said Bridge; and in case the said Bridge, after it shall have been erected and completed, shall at any time become impassable or unsafe for travellers, cattle or carriages, he the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, shall and they are hereby required, within two years from the time at which the said Bridge shall, by His Majesty's Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, in and for the said District of Montreal, be ascertained to be impassable or unsafe, and notice thereof to him or them by the said Court given, to cause the same to be rebuilt or repaired, and made safe and commodious for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages; and if within the time last mentioned, the said Bridge be not so repaired, or rebuilt, as the case may require, then the said Bridge or such part or parts thereof, as shall still exist shall be and be taken, and be considered to be the property of His Majesty; and after such default to repair or rebuild the said Bridge, the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns shall cease to have any right, title or claim, of, in, to or out of the said Bridge, the remaining parts thereof, and the Tolls hereby granted, and his and their rights in the premises, shall be wholly and for ever determined. Provided always that to secure to the public a free passage during the said four years the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, shall during the next Summer, erect a temporary Bridge on props (chevalets,) which Bridge on props (chevalets,) the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, shall cause to be approved by two Justices of the Peace before demanding the herein-before mentioned Rates of Toll upon the same, and he shall every year keep up the said temporary Bridge in a good state of safety and passable from the time of the breaking up of ice until the said River Yamaska shall be passable upon the ice in Autumn, at the foot of the cascade, and during the time that the said Bridge on props (chevalets) cannot be placed anew in the Spring, the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, shall have and keep Canoes for the passage of the public at and for the same Rates as aforesaid.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the present Act or any of the dispositions therein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to weaken, diminish or extinguish the rights and privileges of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, not of any person or persons, body politic

or corporate in any of the things therein-mentioned, (except as to the powers and authority, hereby given to the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Marie Germain, his heirs and assigns, and except as to the rights which are hereby altered or extinguished) but that His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and all and every person or persons, body politic or corporate, their heirs, and assigns, executors and administrators, shall have, and exercise the same rights, with the exceptions aforesaid as they and each them had before the passing of this Act, to every effect and purpose whatsoever, and in as ample manner, as if this Act had never been passed.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the penalties hereby inflicted, shall, upon proof of the offences respectively before any one or more of the Justices of Peace for the District of Montreal, either by confession of the offender, or by the Oath of one or more credible Witness, or Witnesses, (which Oath such Justice is hereby empowered and required to administer,) be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of such offender, by warrant signed by such Justice or Justices of the Peace, and the overplus, after such penalties and the charges of such distress are deducted, shall be returned upon demand to the owner of such goods and chattels, one half of such penalties, respectively, when paid and levied, shall belong to His Majesty, and the other half to the person suing for the same.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the money to be levied by virtue of this Act, and not herein-before granted to the said Jean Marie Langlois, otherwise called Jean Mare Germain, his heirs and assigns, and the several Fines and Penalties hereby inflicted, shall be, and the same are hereby granted, and reserved to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the public uses of this Province, and the Government thereof, in manner herein-before set forth and contained; and the due application of such money, fines and penalties shall be accounted for to His Majesty, his heirs and successors, in such manner and form, as he or they shall direct, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the time being.

XII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this Act shall be deemed a public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and all other persons whomsoever without being specially pleaded.