

The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the second session of the ninth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada. Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1818.

58 George III – Chapter 22

An Act to authorize William Hall, Esquire, to build a Toll-Bridge over the Great Branch of the River St. François, near the line of separation between the Townships of Dudswell and Westbury, in the County of Buckinghamshire. (1st April, 1818.)

Whereas the erection of a Bridge over the Great Branch of the River Saint François, near the line of separation between the Townships of Dudswell and Wesbury, in the County of Buckinghamshire, would materially augment the convenience and facility of the intercourse of the Inhabitants of the adjacent parishes and concessions, and of the public at large: And whereas William Hall, of the city of Quebec, by his petition in that behalf, hath prayed leave to erect a Toll-bridge over the great branch of the said river Saint-François, 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 is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful to and for the said William Hall, and he is hereby authorized and empowered at his own costs and charges to erect and build a good and substantial Bridge over the great branch of the said River Saint François, and to erect or build one Toll-House and Turnpike, with other dependencies, on or near the said Bridge; and also to do, perform, and execute all other matters and things requisite and necessary, useful and convenient for erecting and building, maintaining and supporting the said intended bridge, toll house, turnpike, and other dependencies, according to 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 William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators, and assigns, shall have full power and authority to take, from time to time, and use the land on either side of the great branch of the said river Saint François, and there to work up, or cause to be worked up the materials and other things necessary for erecting, constructing, or repairing the said bridge accordingly; the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, and 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 designed; 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 Three-Rivers [Trois-Rivières], after a previous visitation, examination, and estimation of the premises, shall have been made by experts, to 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 authorized and empowered to hear, settle, and finally determine the

amount of such compensation in consequence – Provided always, that the said William Hall, his heirs or successors, shall not commence the erection of the said bridge and other works, by which any person may be deprived of his land or of 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 William Hall, shall have deposited it at the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Three-Rivers.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Bridge and 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 furnished or provided, for erecting, building, or making, maintaining and repairing the same, shall be vested in the said William Hall, 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 William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators, and assigns, the full and entire value which the same shall 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 Three-Rivers, after examination thereof, by three experts, to be appointed and sworn by the said Justices of the Peace, and be advertised in the Quebec Gazette, it shall be lawful for the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, from time to time, and at all times to ask, demand, receive, recover and take toll, 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 wheeled 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 two pence currency; for every waggon, or other four wheeled carriage, loaded, or unloaded, eleven pence currency; for every chaise, calash chair with two wheels, 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, three pence half-penny, currency; and drawn by one horse or beast of draught two pence half penny currency; for every cart, sled, or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, drawn by two horses, oxen, or other beasts of draught, with the drivers, three-pence half-penny currency; and drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, two-pence half penny currency; and drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, two-pence half penny currency; for every person on foot one half-penny, currency; for every horse, mare, mule, or other beast of draught, laden or unladen, one penny, half-penny currency; for every person on horseback, two-pence currency; for every bull, ox, cow, and all other horned and neat cattle, each one 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 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 or 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 William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators, and 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 authorized to be taken. Provided also, that the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators, and assigns shall affix, 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 William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators 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 dependencies 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 hence-forward be substituted in the place and stead of the said William Hall, his heirs and assigns, for all and every the purpose 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 toll or any part thereof; or shall interrupt or disturb the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, or any person or persons employed by him, or them, for building or repairing the said Bridge, or 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 shillings, 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 person, cattle or carriage whatever, for hire, across the great branch of the said River Saint François at the place aforesaid, within half a league above the said bridge and below the said bridge, and if any person or persons shall erect a toll-bridge or toll-bridges over the said great branch of the said River Saint-François, within the said limits, he or they shall pay to the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, treble the tolls hereby imposed, for the persons, cattle or carriages, which shall, at any time, for hire or gain, pass or convey any person or persons, cattle, or carriages across the great branch of the said River Saint François, within the limits aforesaid, such offender or offenders, shall, for each person, carriage, or animal so carried across, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding forty shillings, currency. Provided that nothing in this Act contained, shall be constituted to prevent the public from passing any of the Fords in the said great branch of the said River Saint François within the limits aforesaid, or in Canoes, 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, and being thereof legally convicted, shall be deemed guilty of a felony.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, the said William Hall, 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 bridge, 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 William Hall, 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 William Hall, shall not, by the said tolls, or in any other manner or way, be entitled to any reimbursement of the expenses 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 William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators, and assigns, shall, and they are hereby, within two years from the time at which the said bridge shall, by His Majesty's Court of Quarter Session of the Peace, in and for the said District of Three-Rivers, 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 be remaining, shall be, and be taken and considered to be the property of His Majesty; and after such default to repair or rebuild the said bridge, the said William Hall, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, shall cease to have any right, title or claim of, in, to, or out of the said bridge, or the remaining parts thereof, and the tolls hereby granted, and his and their rights in the premises, shall be wholly and for ever determined.

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 the King, his heirs and successors, nor of any person or persons, body politic or corporate, in any of the things therein-mentioned, (except as to the power and authority hereby given to the said William Hall his heirs and assigns, and except as to the rights which are hereby expressly altered or extinguished,) but that His Majesty the King, 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 as they and each of them had before the passing of this Act, (with the exceptions aforesaid) 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 the Peace for the District of Three-Rivers, either by confession of the offender, or by the oath of one or more credible witness, or witnesses, (which oath such Justice or Justices 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, and the overplus, after such penalties, and the charges of such distress and sale are deducted, shall be returned upon demand to the owner of such goods and chattels, one half of which penalties, respectively, when paid or 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 monies to be levied by virtue of this Act, and not herein-before granted to the said William Hall, 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 support of 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, 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.

XII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said bridge hereby authorized to be built and erected over and upon the said great branch of the said river Saint-François, be made sufficiently high, and that sufficient room be left between the pillars or quays of the said bridge, to afford a free and navigable passage for rafts of forty feet square.

XIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said William Hall, to entitle himself to the benefits of this Act, shall, and he is hereby required within two months from and after the passing of this Act, to give public notice three weeks in the Quebec Gazette, and in writing, to be affixed at the church doors of each of the four nearest Townships which may be settled, and in case there be no churches in such Townships then at the most public places in the said Townships, that he is thereby authorized to build and construct a bridge and toll-house over the great branch of the said river Saint-François, at the place above-mentioned; and that the inhabitants of the said Townships are entitled to apply to the Grand Voyer, or to his Deputy, within three months after such notification, for the purpose of themselves building the said bridge, which said notices shall be before a Justice of the Peace, certified upon the oaths of any two Officers of Militia, residing in the County of Buckingham to have been duly made and given which Certificate, upon oath with a copy of the said notices, shall be deposited with any Notary public, residing in the District of Three-Rivers.

XIV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if the inhabitants of any of the aforesaid Townships in the County of Buckinghamshire, shall, within three months after such notification as aforesaid, apply by Petition to the Grand Voyer of the District of Quebec, or to his Deputy, to obtain a Procès Verbal, and shall cause the same to be ratified according to law, before the twenty-first day of January one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, specifying that the said bridge shall be erected by the said Townships or any one of them, or any part of them, according to the laws now in force, and shall thereafter in virtue of the said Procès Verbal erect the said bridge within one year to be computed from the date of the homologation of the said Procès Verbal, then, and in such case, the said William Hall, shall not avail himself of this Act for the purpose of erecting the said bridge, and levying the said rates of toll. Provided always, that if such Petition as above-mentioned, be not made and presented to the Grand-Voyer, or to his Deputy, as aforesaid, within three months, and a copy thereof served upon the said William Hall, within three months after such notification as aforesaid, it shall forthwith, after the expiration of the said three months, be lawful for the said William Hall to avail himself of this Act, and to proceed immediately thereafter to the erection and construction of the said bridge and toll-house.

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XV. 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.