

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the third session of the ninth Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1819.

59 George III – Chapter 9

**An Act to prevent accidents in the landing of Gunpowder from Ships or ether Vessels in the Harbour of Quebec, and to guard against the careless transporting of the same into the Powder Magazines. (24th April, 1819.)**

Whereas the bringing of Gunpowder onboard of Ships or other Vessels into the Harbour of Quebec is attended with great risk and danger to the Town, and alarming to the Inhabitants thereof, by reason of the proximity of the buildings to the Harbour or usual place of unloading; And whereas the landing of Gunpowder from on board of ships or other vessels, and the carting thereof into the Powder Magazines may, if not carefully attended to, be productive of the most fatal effects; 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 the of 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 from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for the Master or Masters of any ship or other vessel, having on board more than five pounds of Gunpowder, to bring along side or make fast such ship or other vessel, to any wharf or quay in the Port of Quebec, under a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds, nor less than twenty pounds, current money of this Province.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every Master or Masters of ships or other vessels in the landing of Gunpowder at Quebec aforesaid, shall employ boats or bateaux, every and each of which shall have sufficient tarpaulings or oil cloths to cover the said Gunpowder, under the penalty of ten pounds, current money of this Province, for each boat or bateau which shall not be so provided and covered.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all Gunpowder coming from on board of any ship or other vessel in boats or bateaux as aforesaid, shall be landed by the Master of such ship or vessel during high water, at the following places, that is to say: at the landing place at the foot of the Canoterie hill, with respect to Gunpowder which is to be conveyed to the Magazines situate East of Palace Gate, and at the place commonly called the landing place facing the King's Fuel Yard, in Saint Charles Ward, adjacent to Palace Gate, with respect to Gun-Powder which is to be conveyed to the Magazines situate South of Palace Gate aforesaid, under the penalty of ten pounds, current money of this Province.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in carting or transporting of Gunpowder in carts, trucks, or other carriages, each one shall be provided with an Oil Cloth or tarpauling sufficient

for covering and enveloping such Gunpowder, and all Gunpowder which shall be landed at, the landing places above-mentioned, shall be transported through Palace Gate or Hope Gate, and from thence by the shortest route to such of His Majesty's Magazines as may be fit to receive the same, according to such directions as may be given in that respect by any Justice of the Peace, under the penalty of Five pounds, current money of this Province, for every cart or truck transporting Gunpowder contrary to this Act, And all penalties and forfeitures incurred under this Act, shall be sued for within eight days after the offence committed, before any two or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the District of Quebec in their weekly sittings, one half thereof shall belong to the informer and tire other half to the King; and the said justices of the Peace are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the same on the oath of one credible witness, other than the informer, and to levy the same with costs of suit by Warrant of distress and sale of the guns, boats, tackle and apparel, and furniture of such ship or other vessel, or of the goods and chattels of other persons offending in the premises, under the hands and seals of such Justices of the Peace, directed to any constable, rendering the surplus, if any, after deducing the costs and charges of distress and sale, to the matter or person having command of such ship or other vessel, or to other persons to whom of right it may appertain; and the fines, forfeitures and penalties hereby granted and reserved to His Majesty, His, Heirs and Successors, shall be for the public uses of this Province, and for the support of the Government thereof, and shall be accounted for to His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, for the time being, as His Majesty, His heirs and Successors shall direct.