

*The Provincial Statutes of Lower-Canada, Being the first session of the eleventh Provincial Parliament of Lower-Canada.* Quebec: P. E. Desbarats, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1821.

1 George IV – Chapter 24

**An Act to authorize Michel Dubord, Esquire, to build a Toll-Bridge over the River Champlain. (17th March, 1821.)**

Whereas the erection of a Bridge over the River Champlain, at the present ferrying place, would materially contribute to the convenience of the inhabitants of the adjacent parishes: And whereas Michel Dubord, Esquire, hath by his Petition in this behalf, prayed for leave to build a Toll-bridge over the said River Champlain, at the aforesaid place – Therefore may it 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 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 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 Michel Dubord, and he is hereby authorised and empowered at his own costs and charges to erect and build a good and substantial Bridge over the said River Champlain, at the present ferrying place, and to erect and build a 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 or 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.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for the purpose of erecting, building, maintaining or supporting the said bridge, the said Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, shall, from time to time, have full power and authority to take, and use the sand on either side of the said River Champlain, 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, and the persons by him 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 ground 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 [illegible] about the quantum of such satisfaction, the same shall be settled by His Majesty's Court of King's Bench, for the District of Three Rivers [Trois-Rivières] after a previous visitation, examine 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 authorised and empowered to hear, settle and finally determine the amount of such compensation in consequence. Provided always, that the said Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators and 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 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, shall have deposited it at the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Three-Rivers.

III. 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 found or provided, for erecting, building or maintaining and repairing the same, shall be vested in the said Michel Dubord, his heirs and assigns for ever. Provided, that after the expiration of fifty years 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns, the full and entire value which the same shall at the time of such assumptions, bear and be worth.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that 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 have been 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; and shall have been advertised in the Gazette of Three-Rivers, or if there be none such, in the Quebec Gazette, it shall be lawful for the said Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, from time to time, and all times to ask, demand, receive, recover and take toll, and for their own proper use, benefit 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 person, or less, drawn by two or more horses, or other beasts of draught, ninepence, currency; for every waggon, or other four wheel carriage, loaded or unloaded, 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, four pence, currency; and drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, three pence, currency; for every cart, fled, or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, drawn by two horses, oxen, or other beasts of draught, two pence, currency; for every person on foot one penny, currency; for every horse, mare, mule, or other beast of draught, laden or unladen, one penny, currency; for every person on horseback, one penny half penny, 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.

V. 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 unladen 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 Michel

Dubord, 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 Michel Dubord, 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.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said tolls shall be, and the same are hereby vested in the said Michel Dubord, 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 dependencies, and the ascents and approaches thereto, then the said toll 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs and assigns, for all and every the purposes of this Act.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person shall forcibly pass through the said turnpike without paying the said toll or any part thereof, or shall interrupt or disturb the said Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators or 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.

VIII. 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 work, or use any ferry for the carriage of any persons, cattle or carriages whatsoever, for hire across the said river Champlain, within the distance of one-half a league above the said bridge, and if any person or persons shall erect a toll-bridge or toll-bridges over the said river, within the said limits, he or they shall pay to the said Michel Dubord, 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, or person, or animal so carried across, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty shillings, currency. Provided that nothing in this Act contained, shall be construed to prevent the public from passing any of the fords in the said river, within the limits aforesaid, or in canoes, without gain or hire.

IX. 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 thereof legally convicted, shall be deemed guilty of felony.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Michel Dubord, 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, 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 Michel Dubord his heirs, executors, curators and assigns, shall cease to have any right, title or belong to His Majesty; and the said Michel Dubord, 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 compleated, shall at any time become impassable or unsafe for travellers, cattle or carriages, the said Michel Dubord, 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 Three-Rivers, be ascertained to be impassable or unsafe, and notice thereof to them or any of 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 repaired or rebuilt, as the case may require, then the said bridge, or such 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 rebuilt the said bridge, the said Michel Dubord, his heirs, executors, curators or assigns shall cease to have any right, title or claim of, in, or to the said bridge, or the remaining parts thereof, and the tolls hereby granted, and their and each and every of their rights in the premises, shall be wholly and for ever determined.

XI. 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs and assigns, and except as to the rights which are hereby expressly altered and 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 (with the exceptions aforesaid) as they and each of them had before the passing of this Act, to every effect and purpose whatsoever, and in as ample a manner as if this Act had never been passed.

XII. 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 the 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, 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 and levied, shall belong to His Majesty, and the other half to the person suing for the same.

XIII. 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 Michel Dubord, his heirs and assigns, and the several fines and penalties hereby inflicted, shall be, and the same are hereby 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.

XIV. 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 river Champlain, 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 thirty feet wide. Provided also, that the said bridge shall not be so erected as to obstruct the road leading to the present ford on either side of the said river, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

XV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that until the said Michel Dubord, shall have erected and completed the said bridge, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act, and that in case there should not in the mean time be a ferry boat (bac) legally established for ferrying travellers, cattle and carriages at the said ferrying place, and in all cases where it shall be necessary to repair or rebuild the said bridge, it shall be the duty of the said Michel Dubord, his heirs and assigns to provide a ferry-boat (bac) for ferrying travellers, cattle and carriages over the said river, at the ferrying place, and to ask, demand and receive for ferrying such travellers, cattle and carriages before they shall pass such ferry, the same tolls as are by this Act granted, for passing over on the said bridge, any thing to the contrary heretofore notwithstanding.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Michel Dubord, to entitle himself to the benefit of this Act, shall, and he is hereby required within two months from and after the passing of this Act, to give notice, during three weeks, in the Gazette of Three-Rivers, and if there be none such, in the Quebec Gazette, and in writing, to be affixed at the Church door of the Parishes of Cap La Magdeleine, Champlain and Bastican, during the same space of time, and publicly read after Divine Service in the morning of each Sunday and Holiday intervening in the course of that time, that he is hereby authorised to build and construct a bridge and toll-house over the said river Champlain, at the place above-mentioned; and that the inhabitants of the said Parish 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 notice shall be before a Justice of the Peace, certified upon the oaths of any two Officers of Militia, residing in the County of Saint-Maurice, to have been duly made and given; which certificate, upon oath with a copy of the aforesaid notice, shall be deposited with any Notary Public, residing in the said County of Saint Maurice.

XVII. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if the inhabitants of the said Parish of Champlain, shall, within three months after such notification as aforesaid, apply by petition to the Grand Voyer of the District of Three Rivers, or to his Deputy, to obtain a Procès Verbal, and shall cause the same to be ratified according to law, before the first of November next, for the purpose of causing the said bridge to be erected by the said Parish of Champlain, or part of the same, according to the laws now in force, and shall thereafter in virtue of the said Procès Verbal erect the said bridge within two years to be computed from the date of the Homologation of the said Procès Verbal, then, and in such case, the said Michel Dubord shall not avail himself of this Act for the purpose of

erecting the said bridge, and levying the said rates or 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 Michel Dubord, within three months after such notification as aforesaid, it shall forthwith, after the expiration of the said three months, be lawful for the said Michel Dubord to avail himself of this Act, and to proceed immediately thereafter to the erection and construction of the said bridge and toll-house.

XVIII. 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.