## CAP. LIII.

# An Act to authorize investigation in cases of Fire in the City of Fredericton.

*Passed 9th April* 1860.

BE it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. It shall be the duty of the Mayor of the City of Fredericton for the time being, when any fire shall occur whereby any house or building, steam boat, wood boat, vessel, structure or property in such City, shall be wholly or in part consumed, to institute an enquiry into the cause or origin of such fire, and for that purpose the said Mayor is hereby authorized and required to summon and bring before him all persons whom he may deem capable of giving information or evidence touching or concerning such fires, and to examine such persons under oath, and to reduce their examination to writing.

2. Such Mayor shall enquire into the cause or origin of the fire, and whether the same was kindled by design or was the result of accident or of negligence, and proceed accordingly.

3. If any person summoned to appear before the Mayor in virtue of this Act, shall neglect or refuse to appear at the time and place specified in the Summons, or if any person appearing in obedience to any such Summons shall refuse to be examined or to answer any question that may be put to him in the course of his examination, it shall be lawful for such Mayor to enforce the attendance of such person, or to compel such person to answer, as the case may require, by the same means as are used by Justices of the Peace for such purposes in other cases.

4. Any person guilty of false swearing under this Act shall be guilty of perjury, and subject to all the pains and penalties therefor.

5. In case of the absence or inability of the Mayor to attend, any two of the City Councillors of the said City may act in his stead.