

Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1817. Fredericton, NB: George K. Lugin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1817.

57 George III – Chapter 7

An Act to provide for the necessities of the Province, occasioned by the failure of the late Crop. Passed the 22nd of March, 1817.

Whereas Legislative aid is required to alleviate the extraordinary distress of many of the Inhabitants of this Province.

I. Be it enacted by the President, Council and Assembly, That as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act, a proper number of fit persons, not exceeding five no less than three Freeholders and Inhabitants in the several and respective Counties in this Province, being appointed Commissioners in each and every of the said Counties respectively by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Council, for the purpose of making inquiry into the wants and sufferings of the Inhabitants in their several and respective Counties, occasioned by the failure of the Crops in the last year, shall be sworn to the diligent, faithful and impartial discharge of the duties enjoined upon them by this Act, before some one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the County for which they shall be respectively appointed, which oath the said Justices are hereby authorised respectively to administer.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners thereupon without delay, and with all practicable diligence and dispatch, to make inquiry into the wants and sufferings as aforesaid of the several and respective Inhabitants in their several and respective Counties, who shall make application to them in this behalf; and the said Commissioners or the major part of them in the several and respective Counties after due consultation thereon, shall be and they are hereby authorised forthwith to purchase and provide such quantities of Seed Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Indian Corn or Potatoes as shall be necessary for the supply of the several and respective Inhabitants applying to them for the same, for seed for the ensuing spring, in such proportions and in such quantities as the said Commissioners or the major part of them shall judge sufficient for the wants of such Inhabitants in this behalf; and also to relieve the wants and sufferings of such indigent Inhabitants as may stand in absolute need thereof; and it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners, and they are hereby respectively authorised and required in all cases to take from such persons respectively a receipt in writing for the amount in value, at the price for which the same shall have been purchased, of such articles as shall be supplied and delivered to them, with a promise in such receipt to be accountable for and to repay such amount without interest, to the Province's Treasurer or his Deputy in the several and respective Counties, or to such other person as shall be appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the Province to receive the same: Provided always, That upon the production on the part of the person giving such receipt of a certificate from any Supervisor of the great Roads, or from any Commissioner of Bye Roads, Streets or Bridges, that such person has performed labour upon any public or private Road, Street or Bridge, within the District of such

Supervisor or Commissioner, that then and in such case such receipt shall be cancelled to the extent of the sum specified in such certificate to be due for such labour.

III. And be it further enacted, That in order to enable the said Commissioners respectively to perform the duties required by this Act, a competent number of blank receipts shall be furnished to the said Commissioners respectively, together with the warrant of their appointment and a copy of this Act; and that there shall be paid to them respectively out of the first monies to be drawn from the Province Treasury such sums as shall be sufficient for the purposes of this Act, which several and respective sums shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Province to such Commissioners respectively, by warrant of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Council, which Commissioners shall render an account to the General Assembly at their next Session, of all monies received by them respectively under and by virtue of this Act: Provided always, That the sums so to be drawn shall not exceed the following sums to the Commissioners in the Several and respective Counties, that is to say—To the Commissioners to be appointed for the City and County of Saint John, the sum of one thousand-pounds,—To the Commissioners to be appointed for the County of Charlotte, the sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds,—To the Commissioners to be appointed for the County of York, the sum of twelve hundred pounds,— To the Commissioners to be appointed for the County of Northumberland, the sum of one thousand pounds,—To the Commissioners to be appointed for the County of Sunbury, the sum of five hundred pounds; To the Commissioners to be appointed for Queen's County, the sum of three hundred pounds,—To the Commissioners to be appointed for King's County, the sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds;—To the Commissioners to be appointed for the County of Westmorland the sum of five hundred pounds.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall keep an exact account of the monies expended by them or under their direction by virtue of this Act, and shall produce vouchers therefor, which account and vouchers, together with the receipts to be taken by them as herein-before directed, shall be transmitted by them respectively to the office of the Secretary of the Province for the inspection of the General Assembly at their next Session, and that they shall and may also if they shall so think fit, transmit at the same time and in like manner an account of the number of days that they shall have been respectively employed, and of any expences which shall have been actually incurred by them respectively in the performance of the duties required by this Act, for the consideration of the General Assembly at their next Session.

V. And be it further enacted, That upon a representation made to the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief of the Province, by or on the behalf of any of the inhabitants in the several and respective Counties, who shall have given receipts as herein-before directed for any supplies under and by virtue of this Act, of their inability to repay the sums for which they shall be made accountable by such receipts, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Council, upon a recommendation for that purpose from the Commissioners or major part of them in their respective Counties, to remit to such applicants respectively the whole or any part of the said sums respectively as to him shall seem meet.

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VI. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be and remain in full force for the term of one year and from thence to the end of the next Session of the General Assembly.