

Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1824. Fredericton, NB: George K. Lugin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1824.

5 George IV – Chapter 23

An Act to provide for the better support of the Poor, in certain Parishes in the County of Northumberland. Passed 11th March, 1824.

Whereas by the mode generally pursued, to provide for the support of the Poor in this Province, many persons who might, under proper regulations, contribute to their own maintenance, have nevertheless become chargeable to, and are entirely maintained by, the inhabitants of the Parishes in which such persons reside, to the great burthen of such Inhabitants: And whereas the establishment of suitable Alms-Houses and Work-Houses, in proper situations, within this Province, would not only enable many poor persons who are now chargeable to the Parishes in which they reside to contribute materially to their Own support, but would also afford the means of checking the disorderly behaviour of divers persons, who by drunkenness and idleness disqualify themselves from earning a proper Support—

I. Be it therefore enacted by the President, Council, and, Assembly, That the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland, in their General Sessions, be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, to agree for the erecting and finishing a proper Building for an Alms-House and Work-House in the Town or Parish of New-Castle [Newcastle], and to fix upon a certain sum of money for defraying the expence thereof, which sum of money shall be raised by an assessment upon the Inhabitants of New-Castle, Chatham, Northesk, Ludlow, Alnwick, and Glenelg, in the said County, in the manner prescribed by any Law in force for assessing, collecting, and levying County rates. Provided, that such assessment shall not exceed the sum of Seven Hundred Pounds.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the President or Commander-in-Chief of the Province, by warrant under his hand and seal, to be issued by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council, from time to time to appoint so many fit persons, not exceeding seven, nor less than five (not more than two of whom shall be Justices of the Peace for the said County), to be Commissioners for superintending and managing the said Building so to be erected for the purposes aforesaid; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners, from time to time, to provide such materials and things as they shall judge necessary, for the setting to work and employing such Poor Persons, of what age or sex soever they be, who may apply for relief and shall be able to work, and shall have power and authority, at their discretion, to compel such idle or Poor People begging or seeking relief, as do not betake themselves to some lawful employment, or who do or shall hereafter seek or receive alms of any of the said Parishes hereinbefore mentioned, within the said County, or who may stand in need of relief from any of the said Parishes, to dwell, inhabit, and to work in the said Work-House, and to do all such work as they shall think them able and fit for, and shall have the same powers to bind out Poor Children, apprentices, as are by the Laws of this Province given to the Overseers of the Poor in the several Towns or Parishes in this Province.

III. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners so to be appointed as aforesaid, shall have power to make such rules, orders, and regulations, for the good government and management of the said Alms-House and Work-House, as they shall find necessary (such rules and regulations to be approved of by the said Justices in their General Sessions), and to inflict such correction and punishment, by solitary confinement or otherwise, from time to time, as to them shall seem reasonable, on any person or persons within the said Alms-House or Work-House, who shall be set to work and shall not conform to such rules, orders, and regulations, to be made as aforesaid, or shall misbehave in the same.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall at the first General Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the said County, annually lay before the Justices in their said Sessions, an account, to be audited by the said Justices, of the expences incurred by them for the support and maintenance of the Poor of the said Alms-House and Work-House, for the past year, together with an estimate of what sum or sums of money will be needful for the maintenance or employment of the Poor of the said House, for the current year; in which estimate shall be stated the proportion that each Town or Parish within the said County ought to pay, according to the number of Poor Persons that such Town or Parish shall have in the said Alms-House, or committed to the care of the said Commissioners, to the intent that no other levy or assessment may be made for any other maintenance or allowance to or for any such Poor; which sum or sums of money shall be assessed, levied and raised, in such manner and form as by the Laws of this Province is or shall be appointed and directed, and when raised and received, shall be paid to the said Commissioners, for the use aforesaid and for no other.

V. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioners to be appointed in pursuance of this Act, shall have full power and authority to Contract and agree with the Overseers of the Poor of any Parish in the said County, or of any adjoining County of this Province, for the maintenance of any Poor Persons belonging to such Parishes respectively, which Contract and agreement such Overseers are hereby authorized and empowered to make. Provided always, that such Overseers shall first pay, or secure to be paid, to the said Commissioners, such sum or sums of money as shall be so agreed for, and shall also report to the said Commissioners, the names, character, and condition, of all such Poor Persons within the said Towns or Parishes respectively, in whose behalf such application shall be made.

VI. And be it further enacted, That the profits of any work of labour to be performed under the direction of the said Commissioners, shall be duly accounted for by them, and applied towards the support and maintenance of the persons inhabiting within the said Alms-House and Work-House.

VII. And be it further enacted, That until such time as a proper Building shall be erected and prepared within the said Parish of New-Castle, for the purposes by this Act contemplated, it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners to be appointed as hereinbefore mentioned, to hire and make use of any other House within the said Parish, which they shall think fit and convenient for an Alms-House and Work-House, in manner and form as by this Act is prescribed.