

Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1826. Fredericton, NB: George K. Lugin, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1826.

7 George IV – Chapter 1

An Act for appointing Commissioners to inquire into the losses occasioned by the late destructive fires in this Province. Passed 24th February, 1826.

Whereas, in the month of October last, divers destructive Fires occurred at Fredericton, on the River Miramichi, on the River Oromocto and other parts of this Province, which destroyed Property to a very large amount, reduced many person to a state of want and materially impaired the condition and circumstances of many others. And Whereas very extensive and benevolent contributions have been made in the true spirit of Christian Charity in this Province, and the other British Colonies, and also in the United States of America and in the Mother Country, for relieving the sufferings and repairing the losses occasioned by such Fires, and a large amount of the contributions made in the British Colonies and the United States, remains in the bands and under the direction and control of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to be distributed among the sufferers; and still further and larger sums raised in the Mother Country, will probably be placed in his hands for the same purpose: And Whereas in order to make a just and proper distribution of these extensive Charities, it is necessary that a faithful inquiry should be made into the losses sustained by the persons who may have suffered by the said Fires.

- I. Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, That The Honorable George Shore, The Honorable Ward Chipman, Harry Peters, Esq. Richard Simonds, Esq. and Thomas Horsefield Peters, Esq. shall be, and they are hereby constituted Commissioners, for inquiring into the respective losses, actually sustained by all such person or persons, who may have suffered by the said Fires.
- II. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners or any two or more of them, shall with all convenient speed, repair to such parts of the Province, where the said Fires have happened as shall in that behalf be directed and pointed out by the Lieueutenant-Governor for the purpose of making such inquiries, and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners or any two or more of them, and they are hereby authorized, empowered and required to examine upon oath (which oath they or any two or more of them are hereby authorized to administer) all persons whom the said Commissioners or any two or more of them shall think fit, touching all such matters and things as shall be necessary for the execution of the powers vested in the said Commissioners by this Act. And all such persons are hereby directed and required punctually to attend the said Commissioners at such time and place as they or any two or more of them shall appoint.
- III. And be it further enacted, That as soon as the said examinations into the said losses shall be completed, the said Commissioners shall all meet at Fredericton, and shall make out in writing a full and detailed report of the actual losses ascertained in manner aforesaid, and present the same to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, together with a scheme of distribution of the funds

contributed for this purpose and remaining undisposed of; having regard in all cases to the specific intentions of the donors, where any such intentions have been expressed.

IV. And be it further enacted, That if it shall appear upon sufficient evidence to the said Commissioners that any person shall have delivered in an account or claim beyond the real loss, with an intent to obtain more than a just compensation, such account or claim shall not be included in the report so to be made to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and such person shall be absolutely excluded from any compensation or share of the charitable funds before mentioned.

V. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall be guilty of false swearing in any examination made by the said Commissioners respectively under and by virtue of this Act such person or persons so offending shall upon conviction thereof before the Supreme Court or any Court of *Oyer and Terminer* or Gaol Delivery, be liable to suffer the pains and penalties by Law imposed for wilful and corrupt perjury.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a suitable person to be Secretary to the said Commissioners, and also, in case of a vacancy or vacancies by death or resignation of any one or more of the said Commissioners, to nominate and appoint such person or persons as he may think proper to supply such vacancy or vacancies, and that every person so nominated and appointed shall be held and considered to be invested with all the powers delegated to the Commissioners appointed by this Act.