

*Acts of the General Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1838.* Fredericton, NB: John Simpson, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, 1838.

1 Victoria – Chapter 17

**An Act to provide for the erection of an Alms House and Work House, and to establish a Public Infirmary in and for the City and County of Saint John. Passed 9th March 1838.**

Whereas the mode pursued in the County of York of providing for the support of the Poor has been found to be less expensive than the general system pursued throughout the Province, and to be productive of industrious, sober and moral habits among that class of people;

I. Be it therefor enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly, That the Justices of the Peace for the City and County of Saint John, in their General Sessions, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase a tract of land and agree for the erecting and finishing of a proper building for an Alms House and Work House thereon, in the vicinity of the City of Saint John, and to fix upon a certain sum of money for defraying the expense thereof; which sum of money shall be raised by an assessment upon the inhabitants of the City of Saint John, and the Parishes of Portland, Saint Martin and Lancaster in the said County, in the manner prescribed by law now in force for assessing, collecting and levying County rates, or by any other law passed or to be passed for that purpose; provided that such assessment shall not exceed the sum of three thousand pounds.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief of this Province, by warrant under his name and seal, to be issued with the advice of Her Majesty's Executive Council, from time to time to appoint so many fit persons, not exceeding seven nor less than five, of whom two shall be Justices of the Peace for the said City and County, as he shall think fit, to be Commissioners for superintending and managing the said building so to be erected for the purposes aforesaid and the said land so to be purchased; 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 capable to work; and the said Commissioners or any two or more of them 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 and receive alms of the said City and of any of the said Parishes hereinbefore mentioned within the said County, or who may stand in need of relief from the said City or of any of the said Parishes, to dwell, inhabit, and to work in the said Alms House and 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 and Parishes.

III. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners 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 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 and Work House who shall be so 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 enacted, That the said Commissioners shall, at the first General Sessions of the Peace to be holden for the said City and County of Saint John, annually lay before the Justices in their said Sessions an account, to be audited by the said Justices, of the expenses 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 and employment of the Poor of the said House for the current year, in which estimate shall be stated the proportion that each City, Town or Parish within the said County ought to pay, 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 after being audited and allowed by the said Justices 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 uses aforesaid and no other.

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

VI. And be it enacted, That when the said Alms House and Work House shall be in a fit state to receive the Poor who shall then be in the Alms House in the City of Saint John, and all the inmates of the said Alms House, except the sick and diseased, shall be removed to the said Alms House and Work House so to be erected, the said Alms House in the said City shall be used as and for a Public Infirmary, under the care, management and direction of the said Commissioners, for the reception of such of the poor persons of the said City and Parishes as maybe sick or diseased, and from time to time may become so; and the said Commissioners shall also have power, to make such rules, orders and regulations for the good government and management of the said Public Infirmary, as they shall think necessary (such rules, orders and regulations to be approved of by the said Justices in their General Sessions,) and to compel the due and proper observance thereof; and the support, maintenance and expenses of the said sick and diseased poor persons shall be accounted for, audited and estimated in the same manner and at the same time, as in the case of the inmates of the Alms House and Work House so to be erected as aforesaid, and levied, collected, raised and paid as hereinbefore directed for the said Alms House and Work House.