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23 Victoria – Chapter 12

An Act to provide for an Alms House and Work House for the Parish and Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton. Passed 8th March 1860.

Section.

1. Three Commissioners to be elected in lieu of Overseers of Poor:
2. Authority to purchase and manage a Farm;
3. Also materials for setting Poor to work;
4. Also to make Regulations and punish.
5. Commissioners to make report with Accounts.
6. Municipal Council to order Assessment on application of Commissioners.
7. Profits of work to be accounted for.
8. Commissioners, with consent of Board of Supervision, authorized to borrow money.
9. Certificates of debt to be negotiable.

Section.

10. Assessments for principal and interest, how ordered.
11. Application of proceeds.
12. Board of Supervision constituted.
13. Regulations of Commissioners to be submitted to the Board.
14. Statement of money needed and purpose under Sec. 8, to be given to Board of Supervision.
15. Penalty for neglect of duty by Board of Supervision.
16. Two Commissioners may act.
17. Repeal of inconsistent Acts.
18. Remuneration of Commissioners.

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

1. Instead of the Overseers of the Poor for the Parish of Woodstock and the incorporated Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, there shall be hereafter elected and appointed three Commissioners in manner following, namely:— One Commissioner shall be appointed annually on or before the last Tuesday in December in each year by the Town Council of the Town of Woodstock, and the other two Commissioners shall be elected or appointed by the rate-payers of the Parish of Woodstock at the same time and in the same manner as other Parish Officers are elected or appointed under the Law of this Province: At the election of Parish Officers in the said Parish in December next, the said two Commissioners shall be elected; one of whom, to be decided by lot by the Chairman of the said Election, in the presence of the Electors, shall go out of office at the end of one year: At each succeeding annual Parish Election there shall be elected one Commissioner to replace the Commissioner whose term shall then expire: The term of office of the said two Commissioners to be elected at the Parish Elections as aforesaid, shall be (except in the instance already named) for two years, or until successors are elected or appointed: The present Overseers of the Poor for the Parish of Woodstock shall be the Commissioners under this Act until their successors are appointed: The Board of Supervision shall have power to remove any of the Commissioners at any time for neglect or dereliction of duty, and to fill such vacancy until the next appointment or election under this Act, and also any vacancy occasioned by the death or

removal of any Commissioner from the said Parish and Town of Woodstock: The said Commissioners shall have all the powers and authority now belonging to the Overseers of the Poor for the said Parish and Town, shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duty, and shall be subject to the same penalties to which Overseers of the Poor are subject.

2. The said Commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase a Farm and Lands, and to contract and agree for the erection of suitable buildings for an Alms House and Work House in said Parish, and also to purchase stock and materials for said Farm, and to agree upon a certain sum of money for defraying the expenses thereof, which sum of money shall be raised by an assessment upon the inhabitants of the said Town and Parish, and shall be levied and collected in the manner prescribed by law for levying and collecting County rates; but such assessment shall not exceed one thousand pounds: The title to the said Farm, Lands and property shall be vested in the said Commissioners for the benefit of the Town and Parish aforesaid; and the sole superintendence and management of the said Farm, Lands, Alms House and Work House, with all the stock and materials thereunto belonging, shall be in the said Commissioners, subject to the supervision hereinafter mentioned.

3. It shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners from time to time to provide such materials, stock and other 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 shall have power and authority at their discretion to compel such idle and 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 the said Town or Parish, or who may stand in need of relief of the said Town or Parish, to dwell in, inhabit, and work in said Alms House or Work House, and on said Farm, and to do all such work for which they shall think them able and fit.

4. The said Commissioners shall have power to make such rules, orders and regulations for the good government and management of the said Alms House, Work House, and Farm, as they shall deem necessary, and to inflict such correction and punishment by solitary confinement or otherwise from time to time as to them shall seem reasonable, on any pauper or paupers within the said Alms House or Work House, or on the said Farm, 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 or on the same; provided that such rules, orders and regulations shall not be of any effect until approved by the Board of Supervision composed of the Town Councillors of the said Town and the Municipal Councillors elected to the County Council from said Parish hereinafter mentioned.

5. The said Commissioners shall on or before the first day of December in each year make up and file with the Mayor of the said Town, a Report of their proceedings, and of the condition of said Alms House, Work House, and Farm, and a detailed Account of their receipts and expenditures for the past year, and also an estimate of the expenditure for the succeeding year; they shall also lay a copy of said Report, Account and Estimate before the Municipal Council of the said County of Carleton at its semi-annual meeting in January, accompanied by an application to

the said Municipal Council, requesting the Council to order a rate upon the said Town and Parish to the amount of said estimate, with the costs of assessing and collecting added thereto.

6. The Municipal Council upon such application from the Commissioners, shall issue a Warrant of Assessment upon said Town and Parish for the support of the Poor therein, and the maintenance of the said Alms House, Work House, and Farm, for such sum as said Commissioners shall require in said application; which said sum of money shall lie assessed, levied and collected in such manner and form as by the Laws of the Province are or shall be appointed for the assessment, levying and collection of Poor rates; and such sum when collected shall be paid to the said Commissioners for the use aforesaid and for no other.

7. The profits of any work or labour 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 Poor of the said Town or Parish.

8. The said Commissioners, with the consent of the Board of Supervision hereinafter mentioned, are hereby authorized and empowered to borrow such sums of money as may from time to time be required for the purchase and stocking of said Farm, and the erection and furnishing of the said Alms House and Work House, not exceeding in the whole the sum of one thousand pounds, to be paid off and discharged in manner hereinafter mentioned, the same to be taken in loans of not less than fifty pounds; and the Certificates or Notes in the following form, or to that effect, shall be prepared and delivered to the persons from whom such loans may be obtained, viz :

Number —.
Town and Parish of Woodstock.

These are to certify, that [here insert name, residence, and addition of lender,] hath lent and advanced to the Commissioners of the Alms House for the Town and Parish of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, the sum of fifty pounds currency, which sum is payable to him or to his order, together with interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable half yearly on the first day of September and the first day of March, pursuant to an Act of Assembly made and passed in the twenty third year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled *An Act to provide for an Alms House and Work House for the Parish and Town of Woodstock, in the County of Carleton.*—
Dated the ___ day of _____ of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and _____.

G.H., Mayor of the Town of
Woodstock }
}

A.B. } Commissioners
C.D. } of the
E.F. } Alms House.

Which said Certificates shall be signed by the said Commissioners or a majority of them, and countersigned by the Mayor of the Town of Woodstock, and shall be respectively numbered in the order of time of their issue.

9. The said Certificates or Notes shall be negotiable in the same manner as promissory notes, and the holders thereof shall be entitled to receive interest for the same semi-annually, to be paid by the said Commissioners out of the assessments hereinafter mentioned.

10. It shall and may be lawful for the Municipality of the County of Carleton, and they are hereby authorized and required to make upon the application of the said Commissioners, a rate of assessment each and every year upon the said Town and Parish of Woodstock, in such sum of money not to exceed in any one year the sum of three hundred pounds, as the said Commissioners may by written application request, for the discharge of the principal and interest of the loans contracted under this Act, until the total amount of the loan and interest be paid off; all which said several sums of money shall be assessed, levied, collected and paid in such proportions and in the same manner as Poor-rates are assessed, levied, collected and paid by the Laws of this Province.

11. The moneys so to be assessed as directed in the preceding Section, shall from time to time be applied, after discharging the interest due on the several loans contracted by virtue of this Act, to the payment of the principal sums mentioned in such certificates or notes, in due order according to the numbers, beginning with number one; and the said Commissioners shall from time to time give one month's public notice by advertisement in one of the Newspapers published in said County of Carleton, for calling in such and so many of the certificates or notes as they are prepared to pay off, specifying the numbers in such advertisement, and stating that from and after the expiration of the time mentioned in the said notice, the interest on such certificates or notes shall cease.

12. There shall be a Board of Supervision consisting of the Major and Town Councillors of the said Town of Woodstock, and the Municipal Councillors elected to the County Council from the said Parish of Woodstock, a majority of which Board, when properly called together, shall form a quorum, and of which Board the Mayor of the Town shall be Chairman: The Board shall appoint a Secretary from among its members, who shall keep in a Book kept for the purpose a record of its proceedings: The said Board shall meet when called together by the Mayor or any two members.

13. The Commissioners shall from time to time, as they enact any rules, orders or regulations for the good government and management of the Alms House, Work House, and Farm aforesaid, by virtue of the fourth Section of this Act, give a copy of said rules, orders, or regulations, to the Chairman of the said Board, or any two members of the said Board, with a written request that the Board will meet and consider such rules: The said Chairman, or the two members to whom the copy of the rules and the written request have been given, shall call a meeting of the Board to consider said rules, which meeting shall take place within one week of the time when said written notice has been made: The Board at its meeting shall approve or disapprove of the rules, or of one or more of them, as it may think proper, and the Chairman shall make a memorandum of such approval or disapproval, upon the copy of the rules furnished by the Commissioners as aforesaid, and return such copy to them or otherwise notify them in writing of the action of the Board: Such rules, when thus sanctioned by the Board, shall immediately be of full force and effect.

14. When the Commissioners desire to borrow any sum of money under the authority of the eighth Section of this Act, they shall prepare a written statement of the sum needed, and the purpose for which it is required, and give the same to the Chairman of the Board or to any member of it, with a written request that the Board may be called together to consider of the propriety of borrowing said sum or sums: The said Chairman or member shall thereupon call a meeting of the Board, which shall be held within one week from the day upon which such request is made, and if the Board sanction the borrowing of the sum or sums, or any part thereof, the Chairman shall notify the Commissioners thereof, who shall then be authorized to borrow the same, but not otherwise.
15. The members of the said Board of Supervision shall, for refusing to act, or for neglect of duty, be subject to the same penalties as Parish Officers are under the Revised Statutes, Title VIII, Chapter 52, Section 10.
16. Any act required by this Act to be done by the said Commissioners, may be done by any two of them.
17. The provisions of any Act of Assembly relating to the Poor of the Town or Parish of Woodstock, inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed so far as they are thus inconsistent.
18. The Board of Supervision, with the consent of the majority of Rate-payers present at any meeting called for that purpose, or at the annual Parish meeting for election of Parish Officers, shall make the Commissioners such remuneration for their services as the said Board may think proper, the amount to form a portion of the expenditure under this Act.