

Acts of the General Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1867. Fredericton, NB: G. E. Fenety, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, 1867.

30 Victoria – Chapter 53

An Act to provide for the purchase of Lands and the erection of an Alms House and Work House within the County of Northumberland, and for making rules, orders and regulations for the management of the same. Passed 17th June 1867.

Section.

1. Acts 5 Geo. 4, cap. 23, and 22 Vic. Cap. 47, repealed.
2. Commissioners authorized to purchase Lands and erect Alms house in Chatham; Justices to assess.
3. Governor in Council to appoint Commissioners; quorum.
4. Commissioners to make rules, and punish.

Section.

5. To provide materials, &c. and have general management; authority of Overseers of Poor.
6. To render annual Accounts and estimate.
7. Justice for County may visit and inspect.
8. Profits of labour, how accounted for and applied; commission.
9. Buildings may be hired until erections completed.

Whereas the erection of an Alms House and Work House within the County of Northumberland, for the use of the said County, would tend to lessen the expense of supporting the poor, and under proper rules, orders, and regulations, would be of great advantage to the inhabitants of the County; and whereas the law now in force is insufficient for carrying out this object;—

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

1. That an Act passed in the fifth year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled *An Act to provide for the better support of the poor in certain Parishes in the County of Northumberland*; also an Act made and passed in the twenty second year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled *An Act to repeal an Act intituled An Act to provide for the better support of the poor in certain Parishes in the County of Northumberland, and make other provisions in lieu thereof*, be and the same are hereby repealed.

2. The Commissioners to be appointed, as hereinafter mentioned, are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase a suitable Farm and Lands, situate in the Parish of Chatham, on the front lots, in some suitable place, between Coulson's slip and the upper line of the said Parish; the title to which Farm and Lands shall be vested in the Justices of the Peace for the said County of Northumberland, in trust, to be used and occupied for the purposes of an Alms House and Work House for the said County, and the said Commissioners are also hereby authorized to agree, for the erecting on the said Farm, a proper building or buildings for a County Alms House and Work House, and to fix

upon a certain sum of money for defraying the cost and expense of the purchase of the said Farm, and the erection thereon of the said building or buildings, the whole not to exceed, with the expense of assessing and collecting the same, the sum of six thousand dollars; and the Justices of the Peace for the said County are hereby authorized and required, at any General Sessions of the Peace, to apportion the said sum equitably upon and among the several Parishes of the said County, and to assess and levy the same upon the inhabitants thereof, in the way and manner provided by any law in force for assessing, levying and collecting County rates; the proceeds of which assessment, when collected, shall be paid to the County Treasurer, as County funds, to be applied in payment of the said Farm and Lands, and the erection thereon of the said building or buildings; which money shall be placed at the credit of the said Commissioners so to be appointed, and to be paid out, to their order, for defraying the expense of purchasing the said Farm and erecting the said buildings thereon.

3. It shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor in Council, by warrant under his hand and seal, to appoint two fit and proper persons for each of the Parishes of Newcastle and Chatham, and one fit and proper person for each of the other Parishes in the said County, to be Commissioners for purchasing a Farm and Lands, and for erecting thereon a proper building or buildings for an Alms House and Work House for the said County, and for supporting and managing the same; two of the Commissioners to be appointed for Chatham and Newcastle to be Justices of the Peace for the said County; and five of such Commissioners shall form a quorum for transacting business connected with the said Alms House and Work House.

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 and Work House, and the premises connected therewith, as they shall find necessary from time to time, (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, or on the premises connected therewith, 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.

5. The said Commissioners shall purchase from time to time, all necessary stock, materials, and things that they shall judge necessary for the said Alms House, Work House, and premises therewith connected, not exceeding however in any year the sum authorized by the General Sessions of the Peace to be expended, and for setting to work and employing such poor persons of whatever age or sex they may be, who may apply for, and be entitled to relief, and able to work; and the said Commissioners shall have full power and authority in their discretion, to compel any idle or poor person within the said County, begging or seeking relief, as do not betake themselves to some lawful employment, or who shall hereafter seek to receive alms of any of the said Parishes of the said County, or who may stand in need of relief therefrom, to be removed, and to

inhabit, dwell, and work in and about the said Alms House and Work House, and to do all such work as the said Commissioners shall think them able and fit for, or as such Commissioner shall direct to be done; the said Commissioners in each Parish for which they are appointed, shall have all the authority and power for looking after and taking care of the poor, now vested in the overseers of the poor, and the power and authority of the overseers of the poor shall be limited and restricted to cases of bastardy, and to the care of the poor, in ease of sudden illness, or accident, when temporary relief may be necessary, or until the parties can be removed to the Alms House.

6. The 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 expenses incurred by them for the support and maintenance of the poor in the said Alms House and Work House for the past year, together with an estimate of the sum or sums of money that will be needful for the maintenance and employment of the poor of the said House, including contingent expenses for the current year; and the amount of the said account, when audited and allowed by the said Justices, shall be apportioned on the several Parishes in the said County, having regard to the number of persons that each Parish shall have had in the said Alms House and Work House during the past year, and assessed, levied and collected from the inhabitants thereof in the manner provided by law for assessing, levying and collecting County rates, and when received shall be paid by the several collectors into the hands of the County Treasurer for the use of the said Commissioners, and for no other purpose.

7. All the Magistrates in and for the said County shall have the right to visit the said Alms House and Work House, at all reasonable times, for any purpose connected with the good management of the same, and shall have full power and authority to examine and inspect all the details of management, and in and out door economy of the same, and also into the character, conduct and employment of each and every of the inmates.

8. 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 applied to the support and maintenance of the persons inhabiting within the said Alms House and Work House, and the Commissioners shall be allowed a commission of two and a half per cent on the amount expended by them in the support and maintenance of the said Alms House and Work House, as a remuneration for their services.

9. Until such time as a suitable Farm shall be purchased, and a proper building or buildings shall be erected for the purposes of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners to hire and make use of any other building or buildings within the said Parish of Chatham, which they shall think fit and convenient for an Alms House and Work House, in manner and form as by this Act prescribed.