

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1857.

20 Victoria – Chapter 7

An Act for Ascertaining the Population of this Colony and other Statistical Information. (Passed 17th March, 1857.)

Whereas it is expedient to make provision for Ascertaining the Population of this Island, and other Statistical Information:

Be it therefore enacted, by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, in Legislative Session convened:—

I. That for the purposes of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Governor and Council to subdivide this Colony and its Dependencies into so many Divisions as may be deemed expedient, and to appoint so many competent persons to take the Census and other Statistical Information by this Act required, within the said Divisions and the said Dependencies, respectively, as may in that behalf be necessary and every person so appointed shall discharge the duties required of him in such division to which he shall be appointed, as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council, and shall, before entering on the duties of his office, be sworn before one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace to the true and faithful discharge of the same, and shall, while engaged therein, conform in all respects to the orders and directions of the Governor and Council to be made in conformity with the provisions of this Act.

II. Every person so appointed as aforesaid, shall make a return, with respect to the division or place to which he may have been appointed, of the information particularized in the Schedule to this Act annexed, and such returns shall be compiled within the times in the present year, and at such other periods, as are hereinafter provided; and that for the purpose of such compilation and return, it shall and may be lawful for every person so appointed as aforesaid, and he is hereby required, within his divisions, to visit every House, and enter into and upon any Lands/Tenements, or otherwise, as he shall judge expedient, for the execution of this Act, and then and there to ask all such questions of the persons within the division for which he may be appointed, as aforesaid respecting themselves, the number and the quality of the persons constituting their respective families, and all other matters as shall be necessary for stating the particulars required to be stated concerning them in the said answers and returns; and every adult person refusing to answer such questions or any of them, shall for such refusal or false answer, forfeit a sum not exceeding Forty Shillings, to be recovered with costs, in a summary manner, before any one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace; within the district in which the offence shall be committed, and in default of payment thereof it shall be lawful for such Justice to commit the Offender to gaol for any period not exceeding Two Days.

III. It shall and may be lawful for the Governor to appoint one or more Stipendiary or Honorary Magistrates in each of the several divisions aforesaid, to examine and review the returns of the persons so to be appointed as aforesaid, in the said divisions respectively; and in any portions of this Colony or its Dependencies, where there is no resident Magistrate, to appoint some other fit and proper person for that purpose; and persons shall, on such examination and review, answer upon oath all such

questions as may be put to them by the said Stipendiary or other Magistrate, or other person, as aforesaid, and that if, upon such examination and review, it shall appear to the said Magistrate, or other person as aforesaid, that any such returns are imperfect, defective or erroneous, it shall and may be lawful for the examining Magistrate or other person as aforesaid, to examine witnesses, and to direct the person or persons presenting the same to amend such defect, error or imperfection, previous to such returns being certified as hereinafter mentioned.

IV. Every person so to be appointed to take the Census in any division of the respective places of the Island and its Dependencies, shall, at least Ten Days preceding the Day on which such Court of Revision shall be holden, furnish to the Senior Clergyman or Minister of each Religious Denomination who shall reside within such division, a copy of the Schedule, as filled up by him, for such division, and also a notice of the time and place of holding such Court of Revision: Provided always, that in any division or place where there shall not be any resident Clergyman or Minister aforesaid, a copy of the Schedule, so filled up, shall be furnished, at least Ten Days preceding the Day on which such Court of Revision shall be holden, to such person or persons as shall be appointed by the Bishop or Principal of such Religious Denomination to receive the same.


V. On being satisfied of the general correctness and sufficiency of any such return as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the examining Magistrate, or other person appointed as aforesaid, to certify, under his hand, that such return is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, sufficient and correct; and such certificate shall, together with the said return, be filed in the Office of the Colonial Secretary, by the person who shall have compiled such return, by a day in that behalf to be appointed by the Governor, in such directions as aforesaid; and such returns shall be digested and reduced into order under the direction and superintendence of the Colonial Secretary, or by some other Officer or Officers in his Department, and an abstract thereof shall be laid before the Legislature at its next Session.

VI. If any person so appointed as aforesaid shall wilfully compile or make a return false in any of the particulars aforesaid, such person shall forfeit a sum not exceeding Fifty Pounds, to be recovered in any Court of Record; and in default of payment, shall be subject to Imprisonment for any period not exceeding Six Calendar Months, and shall further forfeit all compensation for his service.


VII. That the sum of Two Thousand Pounds, granted for the purposes of this Act, be appropriated towards the remuneration of the several persons to be appointed as aforesaid, and for other purposes, in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, in this present year, in such manner as the Governor and Council may direct, and shall be paid by warranty under the hand and seal of the Governor, upon the Receiver General, in favour of any person or persons, to be applied to the purposes of this Act.

VIII. The first General Census and Returns shall be taken between the months of June and December in this present year, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven, and, so far as may be practicable, the same shall be taken simultaneously; and a like General Census and Returns shall be taken between the same months, and in like manner, in every Tenth year hereafter. The Tables to be issued by the Governor and Council, first to be taken, shall be in the forms contained in the Schedule of Questions annexed hereto, with such additional enquiries as to the Governor and Council shall seem expedient.

SCHEDULE OF QUESTIONS.

1. How many Inhabited Houses.
 2. By how many Families Inhabited.
 3. Houses now Building.
 4. Uninhabited Houses.
 5. Stores, Barns and Outhouses.
 6. Fishing Rooms in actual use.
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- And where situate

INHABITANTS OF VARIOUS AGES.

7. Number of Males under 10 Years of Age.
 8. " of Females under 10.
 9. " of Males from 10 to 20.
 10. " of Females from 10 to 20.
 11. " of Males from 20 to 30.
 12. " of Females from 20 to 30.
 13. " of Males from 30 to 40.
 14. " of Females from 30 to 40.
 15. " of Males 40 to 50.
 16. " of Females 40 to 50.
 17. " of Males 50 to 70.
 18. " of Females 50 to 70.
 19. " of Males and Females from 70 Upwards.
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- Names and where born.

MARRIED.

20. Number of Married Persons.

WIDOWERS.

21. Number of Widowers.

WIDOWS, &c.

22. Number of Widows and Orphans.

PAUPERS.

23. Number of Cripples, Aged and Disabled Paupers.

DEAF AND DUMB.

- 24. Number of Males Deaf and Dumb.
- 25. Number of Females Deaf and Dumb.

BLIND.

- 26. Number of Males Blind.
- 27. Number of Females Blind.

LUNATICS.

- 28. Number of Male Lunatics.
- 29. Number of Female Lunatics.

IDIOTS.

- 30. Number of Male Idiots.
- 31. Number of Female Idiots.

INDIANS.

- 32. Number of Male Indians, including Children.
- 33. Number of Female Indians, including Children.

COLOURED PERSONS.

- 34. Number of Coloured Males, including Children.
- 35. Number of Coloured Females, including Children.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

- 36. Number of Births the preceding year.
- 37. “ of Deaths the preceding year.
- 38. “ of Marriages the preceding year.

NUMBER ENGAGED IN VARIOUS PROFESSIONS.

- 39. Number of Clergymen or Ministers.
- 40. “ of Doctors and Lawyers.
- 41. “ of Farmers.
- 42. “ of Mechanics.
- 43. “ of Merchants and Traders.
- 44. “ of Persons engaged in catching and curing Fish.

- 45. “ of Persons engaged in Lumbering.
- 46. “ of Churches and Places of Worship of each Denomination.

SCHOOLS AND PUPILS

- 47. Number of Schools in each District.
- 48. “ of Children attending School.

NUMBER OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

- 49. Number of Church of England.
- 50. “ of Catholics.
- 51. “ of Kirk of Scotland.
- 52. “ of Free Church.
- 53. “ of Baptists.
- 54. “ of Wesleyan Methodists.
- 55. “ of Congregationalists.
- 56. “ of other Denominations.

IMPROVED LANDS.

- 57. Number of Acres of Dyke Land, and average value.
- 58. Number of Acres other improved Land.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

- 59. Number of Tons of Hay cut.
- 60. “ of Bushels of Wheat raised.
- 61. “ of Bushels of Barley raised.
- 62. “ of Bushels of Rye raised.
- 63. “ of Bushels of Oats raised.
- 64. Quantity of Timothy and Clover Seed raised.
- 65. Number of Barrels of Potatoes raised.
- 66. “ of Barrels of Turnips raised.
- 67. “ of Barrels of other Root Crops.

AGRICULTURAL STOCK.

- 68. Number of Neat Cattle.
- 69. “ of Milch Cows.
- 70. “ of Horses.
- 71. “ of Sheep.
- 72. “ of Swine and Goats.

FISHERIES.

73. Number of Vessels engaged in the Seal or other Fisheries, and Men on Board.
74. Amount of Tonnage engaged in the Fisheries.
75. Number of large Boats engaged in Fisheries, and Men on Board; from 4 to 15 quintals; 15 to 30, 30 and upwards.
76. Number of Nets and Seines.
77. Quantity of Cod-fish cured.
78. “ of Salmon caught and cured.
79. “ of Herring cured.
80. “ and value of other Fish cured.
81. “ and Value of Fish and Oil, distinguishing each kind.
82. Quantity of Seals.
83. Number of Seal-nets.
84. “ of Cod Seines.
85. “ of Herring Nets and Seines.
86. “ of Caplein Seines.

MILLS AND FACTORIES.

87. Number and Value of Saw Mills, and number of hands employed.
88. Number and Value of Grist Mills, and number of hands employed.
89. Number and Value of Tanneries, and number of hands employed.
90. Number and Value of Foundries, and number of hands employed.
91. Number and Value of Weaving and Carding Establishments, and number of hands employed.
92. Number and Value of Breweries and Distilleries, and number of hands employed.
93. Number and Value of Hand Looms.
94. Number and Value of Factories other than the above, and number of hands employed.

ARTICLES MANUFACTURED.

95. Number of Yards of Fulled Cloth manufactured last year.
96. “ of Yards of Cloth not Fulled.
97. “ of Yards of Flannel.
98. Value of Boots and Shoes manufactured.
99. “ of Leather manufactured.
100. “ of Candles manufactured.
101. “ of Soap manufactured.
102. “ of Agricultural Implements manufactured.
103. “ of Chairs and Cabinet Wares manufactured.
104. “ of Carriages manufactured.
105. “ of Wooden Ware, other than the above, manufactured.
106. “ of Iron Castings manufactured.

107. Quantity of Coals raised.
108. “ of Iron smelted, and value.
109. Number of Gallons of Malt Liquor manufactured.
110. “ of Gallons of Distilled Liquor manufactured.
111. Bushels of Lime Burnt, and value.
112. Quantity of Bricks manufactured, and value.
113. Tons and Value of Gypsum quarried.
114. Quantity of Butter manufactured.
115. “ of Cheese manufactured.
116. Number of Vessels built, and tonnage.
117. “ of Boats built.
118. “ and Value of Slates quarried and manufactured.
119. Value of Imports into and Exports from Newfoundland.
120. Value of Imports into and Exports from Labrador.
121. Number of Vessels and Tonnage owned in this Colony.
122. Number of able-bodied Fishermen and Seamen in this Colony and its Dependencies.