

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1860.*

23 Victoria – Chapter 9

**An Act to Provide for the Establishment of Steam Packet Communication between St. John's and the Outports of Newfoundland. (Passed 14th May, 1860.)**

Whereas it is necessary to establish Steam Packet Communication between the port of St. John's, in this Colony, and the Outports thereof:

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

I. That there be granted to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, the sum of Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds annually, for five years from the passing thereof, to defray the expenses of such communication, out of which sum there shall be annually paid the sum of three thousand pounds towards the payment of all expenses that may be incurred under this Act in establishing Steam Communication between St. John's and the South-west and North-east Coast of this Island, and the balance of such sum of money, being twelve hundred and fifty pounds, shall be annually applied and paid towards defraying the expenses to be incurred under this Act in establishing Steam Communication between St. John's and the North and South sides of Conception Bay, and which sum of money shall be paid annually out of the public revenue of this Colony, by warrant of the Governor for the same, in favour of such company or persons as shall be entitled thereto, on the due performance of their respective contracts.

II. The Governor of this Colony, by and with the advice and assent of Her Majesty's Council therein, shall be and is hereby authorised to negotiate and contract with any company or persons, upon such terms as maybe agreed upon, for five years, to run two efficient Steamers between the port of St. John's, in the said Island, and the Outports thereof, on the routes nest hereinafter mentioned, according to the provisions hereinafter contained and the terms of such agreement; and that each of said Steamers shall not be less than sixty horses' power and two hundred two hundred tons register measurement, including boiler and engine rooms.

III. One of such Steamers shall, during the term of such contract, and in accordance therewith, run twice in each month from St. John's along the North-east coast of this Island, calling at such ports or harbors on and off that part of the coast of this Island as may be specified in such contract, and the other of such Steamers shall, during the term of such contract, and in accordance therewith, run twice in each month from St. John's along the Southern and Western coast of this Island, calling at such ports or harbors on and off that part of said coast as may be specified in such contract. Provided always, that the Governor in Council shall be and is hereby authorised to provide in such contract for the conveyance in such Steamers of the Judges and their suite on Circuit, and that one of such Steamers may, if desirable, proceed, once or twice in the year, from St. John's to the Labrador.

IV. The Governor, by and with the advice and assent of Her Majesty's Executive Council, shall be and is hereby authorised to negotiate and contract with any company or persons upon such terms as may be agreed upon, for five years, to run an efficient Steamer between the North and South sides of Conception Bay and St. John's, according to the provisions hereinafter contained and the terms of such agreement as shall be entered into: Provided that once in each week such Steamer shall make a trip between Conception Bay and St. John's.

V. The Steamer to ply in Conception Bay, as aforesaid, shall not be less than one hundred and fifty tons register measurement, including engine and boiler rooms, and sixty horses' power at least, and shall be provided with good and sufficient engines, boilers, machinery, life-boats, and all other equipments, matters and things, as prescribed and required by the Board of Trade in England.

VI. The said Steamers shall, respectively, during such term, and the performance of such contracts, be and continue in all respects efficient and seaworthy in their hulls, machinery, sails, rigging, anchors, chains, cables, life-boats, buoys, furniture, compasses, and in all other respects according to the regulations of the Board of Trade in England, in respect of Steamships and the navigation thereof.

VII. The Governor in Council shall at least twice in each year, and oftener if he think fit, cause such Steamers and the machinery thereof, and all such matters and things relating in anyway to such Steamers, to be surveyed by a competent person to be appointed by him for the purpose; and should any or either of such Steamers be found, on such survey, unseaworthy, unsafe, or insufficient in any respect, for the due performance of the service agreed to be performed under this Act, and such contracts respectively, the Governor in Council shall, in such case, have power to alter or rescind the same, in case the requisites of such survey be not made good and to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, within such reasonable time as he may direct for that purpose.

VIII. During the performance of such contracts, the said several Steamers shall respectively carry all mails and passengers to their destination, according to such contracts and such regulations as may be made by the Governor in Council in relation thereto.

IX. The Governor in Council, during the performance of such contracts respectively, shall have power and authority, and is hereby authorised to appoint and regulate the days and times of sailing and detention of each and every of such Steamers at their respective ports of call or departure.