

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of Newfoundland, passed in the year 1866. J. C. Withers, Queen's Printer, 1866.

29 Victoria – Chapter 5

An Act for the Reduction of Pauperism, by encouraging Agriculture and more effectually carrying into operation the Provisions of the Act 23 Vic., Cap. 3. (Passed 1st May, 1866.)

Whereas the condition of the People of this Colony, for some years past, News that the present means of support are not sufficient to provide for their wants; and the drain from the Public Treasury for the relief of the able-bodied Poor absorbs the funds that should be devoted to the improvement of the Country: it is therefore expedient to make provision for the reduction of Pauperism, by encouraging Agriculture, and more effectually carrying into operation the provisions of the Act 23 Victoria, Cap. 3.

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

- I. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to expend, from time to time, out of the moneys unappropriated in the hands of the Receiver General, towards the promotion of Agriculture and carrying out this Act, a sum not exceeding Twenty Thousand Dollars each year, for two years from the passing thereof, which amount shall be fairly apportioned and expended in the several Districts, in the allotment of lands for settlement and cultivation, and among those of the inhabitants who by their industry may avail themselves of the benefit of this Act.
- II. Before expenditure of any part of the said sum, the Governor in Council shall make such Rules and Regulations as he may deem necessary for the Survey and Allotment of the most eligible Lands for the purpose of settlement in the several Districts, and towards carrying this Act into operation.
- III. There shall be paid to every Poor Settler, if in the opinion of the Governor and Council he shall come within the designation in the fourth Section, who shall conform to the Rules and Regulations to be made as aforesaid, the sum of Eight Dollars for the first acre, and Six Dollars for every acre thereafter, not exceeding Six Acres, of the Waste Lands of this Colony, cleared, tilled and reduced into cultivation by every such Settler: provided that any Poor Settler who may, before this Act comes into operation, have cultivated land belonging to him in any of the Districts less than the limit aforesaid, shall, on conforming to the said Rules and Regulations, be entitled to the amount of compensation last aforesaid for every acre subsequently brought into cultivation, not exceeding the said limits.
- IV. A Poor Settler, for the purpose of this Act, shall be defined to be any person who, being unable to support himself or family, shall labour in the cultivation aforesaid to provide means therefor, whether engaged in the prosecution of the fishery or separately.
- V. The person shall receive the compensation aforesaid who shall not produce satisfactory evidence of his being justly entitled thereto under this Act, and in every instance upon the order of the Governor in Council.

VI. The Rule and Regulations to be made as aforesaid shall be published in the Royal Gazette, and laid before the Legislature shortly after the opening of the Session next after the same shall have been so made and published.

VII. No person who shall have received relief as a Pauper, from or out of the public moneys, within one year after, for at any time dating the year preceding any Election of a Member or Members to serve in the House of Assembly, shall be competent to vote at such last Election; and the Justices revising the list of Electors shall strike therefrom the names of all persons who shall have received relief as aforesaid; provided that relief received before the passing of this Act shall not render any person incompetent to vote as aforesaid.