

Laws of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada, passed in the year 1836. Toronto: Robert Stanton, 1836.

6 William IV – Chapter 7 (Session 1)

An Act to Incorporate a Company to construct a Rail Road from Burlington Bay, to Lake Huron. Passed, 20th April, 1836.

Whereas certain Inhabitants of the Districts of Gore and London have petitioned for the passing of a Law Incorporating a Joint Stock Company for the purpose of constructing a single and double track wooden or iron Rail Road or Way, commencing at Wellington Square, Burlington Bay, or Dundas, in the District of Gore, which ever place may be considered most advantageous and proper by a majority of the Directors, and extending to the Harbor of Goderich in the District of London; And whereas, it is expedient to Incorporate a Joint Stock Company for such purposes: Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "*An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, 'An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America,' and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province,*" and by the authority of the same, That John Gamble, James Durand, John Watt, James B. Ewart, William J. Kerr, William Chisholm, John Chisholm, Philo Bates, George Chisholm, Hiram Smith, Ashael Davis, Thomas Stinson, Robert G. Dunlop, E.C. Taylor, Abraham Crisman, George Clement, Absalom Shade, John A. Cornwall, with all such persons as shall become Stockholders in such Joint Stock or Capital as is hereinafter mentioned, shall be and are hereby ordained, constituted and declared to be a body Corporate and Politic in fact, by and under the name and style of the Huron and Ontario Rail Road Company; and by that name they and their successors shall and may have continued succession, and by such name shall be capable of contracting and being contracted with, suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, in all Courts and places whatsoever in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, matters and concerns whatsoever; and they and their successors may and shall have a Common Seal, and may change and alter the same at their will and pleasure; and also that they and their successors by the same name of the Huron and Ontario Rail Road Company shall be by Law capable of purchasing, having and holding, to them and their successors, estate, real, personal or mixed, to and for the use of the said Company, and of letting, conveying and otherwise departing therewith for the benefit and on account of the said Company from time to time as they shall deem necessary and expedient; Provided always nevertheless, that the real estate to be held by the said Company shall be only such as shall be required to be held by them for the purpose of making, using and preserving the said Rail Road and for objects immediately connected therewith.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Company and their Agents and Servants shall have full power under this Act to lay out, construct, make and finish a double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way, at their own costs and charges, on and over any part of the country lying between Wellington Square, Burlington Bay, or Dundas in the District of Gore, and the Town of Goderich in the District of London; and to take, carry and transport thereon passengers, goods and property either in carriages used and propelled by the force of steam or by the power of animals, or by any mechanical or other power, or by any combination of power which the said Company may choose to employ.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Company are hereby empowered to contract, compound, compromise and agree with the owners or occupiers of any lands upon which they may determine to construct the said Rail Road, either by purchase of so much of the said land and privileges as they shall require for the purposes of the said Company, or for the damages which he she or they shall and may be entitled to receive of the said Company in consequence of the said intended Rail Road being made and constructed in and upon his, her or their respective lands; and in case of any disagreement between the said Company and the owner or owners, occupier or occupiers as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful from time to time for each owner or occupier so disagreeing with the said Company, either upon the value of the lands and tenements or private privileges proposed to be purchased, or upon the amount of the damages to be paid to them as aforesaid, to nominate and appoint one or more indifferent person or persons, and for the said Company to nominate an equal number of indifferent persons who together with one other person to be elected by ballot by the persons so named, shall be Arbitrators to award, determine, adjudge and order the respective sums of money which the said Company shall pay to the respective persons entitled to receive the same; the award of the majority of whom shall be final; and the said Arbitrators shall be and are hereby required to attend at some convenient place in the vicinity of the said intended Rail Road to be appointed by the said Company after eight days notice given for that purpose by the said Company, then and there to arbitrate and award, adjudge and determine such matters and things as shall be submitted to their consideration by the parties interested, and that each Arbitrator shall be sworn before some one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for either of the said Districts of Gore or London; any of whom may be required to attend the said meeting for that purpose well and truly to assess the damages between the parties according to the best of his judgment; Provided always, that any award made under this Act shall be subject to be set aside on application to the Court of King's Bench, in the same manner and on the same grounds as in ordinary cases of submission by the parties, in which case a reference may be again made to arbitration as hereinbefore provided.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whatever sum of money may be finally awarded to any person or persons for compensation for property required to be occupied, or for damages occasioned by the interference of the said Company with his her or their property, rights or privileges, shall be paid within three months from the time of the same being awarded; and in case the said Company shall fail to pay the same within that

period, then their right to assume any such property or commit any act in respect of which such sum of money was awarded shall wholly cease, and it shall be lawful for the proprietor to resume his occupation of such property and to possess fully his rights and privileges in respect thereof, free from any claim or interference from the said Company.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Huron and Ontario Rail Road Company shall have full power and authority to explore the country lying between Wellington Square, Burlington Bay or Dundas in the District of Gore, and the Town of Goderich in the District of London, and to designate and establish and for the said Company to take, appropriate, have and hold to and for the use of them and their successors, the line and boundaries of a single or double Rail Road with their necessary Rail Ways to connect Wellington Square or Burlington Bay in the District of Gore, and the Harbor of Goderich in the District of London, and for the purposes aforesaid the said Company and their Agents, Servants, and Workmen are hereby authorised and empowered to enter into and upon the lands and grounds of or belonging to the King's Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, or to any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, and to survey and take levels of the same or any part thereof, as they shall think necessary and proper for making the said double or single Rail Road; and all such matters or conveniences as they shall think fit, proper and necessary for making, effecting, preserving, improving, completing and using on the said intended Rail Road; and also to make, build, erect, and set up in and, upon the route of the said Rail Road, or upon the lands adjoining or near the same, all such works, ways, roads and conveniences as the said Company shall think requisite and convenient for the purposes of the said Rail Road; and also from time to time to alter, repair, amend, widen or enlarge the same or any of the conveniences above mentioned, as well for carrying or conveying goods, commodities, timber and other things to and for the said Rail Road, as for the carrying or conveying of all manner of materials necessary for making, erecting, furnishing, altering, repairing, amending or enlarging the works of or belonging to the said Rail Road; and also place, lay, work and manufacture the said materials on the ground near to the place or places where the said works or any of them are or shall be intended to be made, erected, repaired or done, and to build and construct the several works and erections belonging thereto; and also to make, maintain, repair and alter any fences or passages under or through the said Rail Road, or which shall communicate therewith and to construct, erect and keep in repair any piers, arches or other works in and upon and across any rivers or brooks for making, using, maintaining and repairing, the said Rail Road and side paths; and also to construct, make, and do all other matters and things which they shall think necessary and convenient for the making, effecting, preserving, improving, completing and using the said Rail Road in pursuance and within the true intent and meaning of this Act; they the said Company doing as little damage as may be in the execution of the several powers to them hereby granted, and making satisfaction in manner herein mentioned, for all damages to be sustained by the owners or occupiers of such lands, tenements and hereditaments.

VI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the President and Directors of the said Company from time to time to fix, regulate and receive the Tolls and charges to be received for transportation of property or persons on the

single or double Rail Road or Way aforesaid hereby authorised to be constructed, erected, built, made and used.

VII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said double or single Rail Road or Way and all materials which shall be from time to time got or provided for constructing, building, maintaining and repairing the same, and the said Tolls on goods, wares, merchandize or passengers as hereinbefore mentioned, shall be and the same are hereby vested in the said Company and their Successors forever.

VIII. And be it further enacted by the authority, aforesaid, That so soon as the double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way shall be so far completed as to be capable of being used for transportation of property or passengers, the said Company shall have full power and authority to ask for, demand, receive, recover and take the tolls and dues to and for their own proper use and benefit, on all goods, merchandize and passengers using or occupying the said double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way, or any other convenience, erection or improvement built, occupied or owned by the said Company, to be used therewith, and shall have power to regulate the time and manner in which goods and passengers shall be transported, taken and carried on the same, as well is the manner of collecting all tolls and dues on account of transportation and carriage; and shall have full power to erect and maintain such Tollhouses and other buildings for the accommodation and proper transaction of their business as to them may seem necessary.

IX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whenever it shall be necessary for the construction of their single or doubled Rail Road or Way to intersect or cross any stream of water or water-course, or any road or high way lying on the route of the said Rail Road or Way between Wellington Square, Burlington Bay or Dundas in the District of Gore, and Goderich in the District of London, it shall and may be lawful for the Corporation to construct their single or double Rail Road or Way across and upon the same; Provided, that the Corporation shall restore the stream or water-course or road or highway thus intersected to its former state, or in a sufficient manner not to impair its usefulness; and shall moreover erect and maintain during the continuance of this Corporation, sufficient fences upon the line of the route of their single or double Rail Road or Way.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall wilfully do or cause to be done any act or acts whatever whereby any building, construction or work of the said Corporation, or any engine, machine or structure or any matter or thing appertaining to the same, shall be stopped, obstructed, impaired, weakened, injured or destroyed, the person or persons so offending shall forfeit and pay to the said Corporation double the amount of damages sustained by such offence or injury; to be recovered in the name of the said Corporation by action of debt, to be brought in any Court of record in this Province.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Company, or their Agents or servants, at any time after the passing of this Act, under and by virtue of its

provisions, shall and may construct, erect, and build and finish a double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way, as aforesaid, on any part or portion of the country lying between Wellington Square, Burlington Bay, or Dundas, in the District of Gore, and the Town of Goderich, in the District of London; and also that the said Rail Road or Way contemplated by this Act shall not in any degree interfere with or encroach on any fee simple, right, or private easement or privilege of any individual now holding and enjoying the same or entitled thereto without the permission first had and obtained either by the consent of the owner thereof, or by virtue of reference authorised by this Act.

XII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the property, affairs, and concerns of the said Company shall be managed and conducted by seven Directors, one of whom shall be chosen President, who shall hold their offices for one year, which said Directors shall be Stockholders to the amount of at least ten shares, and be elected on the first Monday in June in each and every year, at Wellington Square, at such time of the day as a majority of the Directors for the time being shall appoint, and public notice thereof shall be given in any newspaper or newspapers that may be published in the said Districts of Gore and London, at least one month previous to the time of holding the said election, and the said election shall be held and made by such of the Stockholders of the said Company as shall attend for that purpose, in their own proper persons or by proxy, and all elections for such Directors shall be by ballot, and the seven persons who shall have the greatest number of votes at any election shall be Directors; and if it shall happen at any such election that two or more have an equal number of votes in such manner that a greater number of persons than seven shall by plurality of votes appear to be chosen Directors, then the said Stockholders hereinbefore authorised to hold such election, shall proceed to elect by ballot until it is determined which of the said persons so having an equal number of votes shall be Director or Directors, so as to complete the whole number of seven; and the said Directors, so chosen, as soon as may be after said election, shall proceed in like manner to elect by ballot one of their number to be President; and if any vacancy or vacancies shall at any time happen among the Directors by death, resignation, or removal from the Province, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the year in which they may happen by a person or persons to be nominated by a majority of the Directors.

XIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That each Stockholder shall be entitled to the number of votes proportioned to the number of shares which he or she shall have held in his or her own name at least one month prior to the time of voting, according to the following rates, that is to say—One vote for each share not exceeding four; five votes for six shares; six votes for eight shares; seven votes for ten shares; and one vote for every five shares above ten.

XIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case it should at any time happen that an election of Directors should not be made on any day, when pursuant to this Act, it ought to have been made, the said Corporation shall not for that cause be deemed to be dissolved, but it shall and may be lawful on any day to hold and make an election of

Directors, in such manner as shall have been regulated by the by-laws and ordinances of the said Corporation.

XV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Directors for the time being, or a majority of them, shall have power to make and subscribe such rules and regulations as to them shall appear needful and proper touching the management and disposition of the stock, property, estate, and effects of the said Company, and touching the duty of the officers, clerks, and servants, and all such other matters and things as appertain to the business of the said Corporation; and shall also have power to appoint as many officers, clerks, and servants for carrying on the said business, with such salaries and allowances as to them shall seem fit.

XVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That on the first Monday in the month of June next, a meeting of the Stockholders shall be held at Wellington Square, who, in the same manner as hereinbefore provided, shall proceed to elect seven persons to be Directors, who shall elect by ballot one of their number to be their President, and shall continue in office till the first Monday in June after their election, and who during their continuance shall discharge the duties of Directors in the same manner as if they had been elected at the annual election: Provided always, that if shares to the amount of fifty thousand pounds of the capital stock of the said Company shall not be taken, then the said meeting shall not be held until that amount of stock shall have been taken up, and at least thirty days notice thereof given in any paper or papers published in the Districts of Gore or London.

XVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the whole capital stock of the said Company, inclusive of any real estate which the said Company may have or hold by virtue of this Act, shall not exceed in value three hundred and fifty thousand pounds, with a privilege to the said Company of extending the amount to five hundred thousand pounds; and that shares of the capital stock may, after the first instalment thereon shall have been paid, be transferred by the respective persons subscribing and holding the same to any other person or persons; and such transfer shall be entered and registered in a book or books, to be kept for that purpose by the said Company: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to authorise the said Company to carry on the business of banking.

XVIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so soon as Directors have been appointed, as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for them to call upon the Stockholders of the said Company, by giving thirty days notice thereof in any newspaper published in the aforesaid Districts of London and Gore, for an instalment of five per cent upon each share which they or any of them may respectively subscribe; and that the residue of the sums or shares of the Stockholders shall be payable by instalments, in such time and in such proportions as a majority of the Stockholders at a meeting expressly convened for that purpose shall agree upon, so that no such instalments shall exceed five per cent or become payable in less than thirty days after public notice in the newspaper or newspapers

aforesaid: Provided always, that the said Directors shall not commence the construction of the said Rail Road or Wav until the first instalment shall be paid in.

XIX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any Stockholder or Stockholders, as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay at the time required any instalment or instalments as shall be lawfully required by the Directors as due upon any share or shares, such Stockholder or Stockholders so refusing or neglecting shall forfeit such share or shares as aforesaid, with any amount which shall have been previously paid thereon; and that the said share or shares may be sold by the said Directors; and the sum arising therefrom, together with the amount previously paid thereon, shall be accounted for and applied in like manner as other monies of the said Company: Provided always, that the purchaser or purchasers shall pay the said Company the amount of the instalment required over and above the purchase money of the share or shares so purchased by him, her, or them, as aforesaid, immediately after the sale, and before they shall be entitled to a certificate of the transfer of such shares so purchased, as aforesaid: Provided always, that thirty days notice of the sale of such forfeited shares shall be given in any newspaper or newspapers published in the Districts of Gore and London; and that the instalment due may be received in redemption of any such forfeited share at any time before the day appointed for the sale thereof.

XX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the Directors to make annual dividends of so much of the profits of the said Company as to them or a majority of them shall seem advisable, and that once in each year an exact and particular statement shall be rendered of the state of their affairs, debts, credits,, profits, and losses, such statement to appear on the books, and to be open to the perusal of any Stockholder at his or her reasonable request.

XXI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Company are hereby authorised and empowered, at their own costs and charges, to construct harbours at Wellington Square, Burlington Bay, or Dundas, and at the Town of Goderich aforesaid, which shall be accessible to, and fit, safe, and commodious for the reception of such description and burthen of vessels as commonly navigate Lakes Ontario and Huron; and also to erect and build all such needful moles, piers, wharves, aqueducts, basins, docks, dams, sluices, buildings, and, erections whatsoever as shall be useful and proper for the protection of the said harbours, and for the .accommodation and convenience of vessels entering, lying, loading, and unloading within the same, and as shall be necessary for the accommodation of said Rail Road, and to alter and amend, repair and enlarge the same, as may be found expedient and necessary.

XXII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act, and as such shall be judicially noticed by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and other persons without being specially pleaded.

XXIII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That at any time after fifty years after the making and completing the said Rail Road or Way, His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors may assume the possession and property of the same, and of all and every the works and dependencies thereto belonging, upon paying to the said Company, for the use of the Stockholders thereof, the full amount of their respective shares or of the sums furnished and advanced by each subscriber towards the making and completing the said double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way, together with such further sum as will amount to twenty per cent upon the monies so advanced and paid, as a full indemnification to such Company; and the said double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way shall, from the time of such assumption in manner aforesaid, appertain and belong to His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, who shall from thenceforth be substituted in the place and stead of the said Company, upon the conditions and subject to the provisions of any Act of the Legislature of this Province that may be passed respecting the same: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, at any time after the expiration of the said fifty years to assume the possession and property of the said Rail Road or Way, with their appurtenances aforesaid, unless it shall appear from the accounts of the said Company to be for that intent laid before the Legislature that that the Stockholders of the said Company have received every year, upon an average, the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings for every one hundred pounds they shall be possessed of in the said concern.

XXIV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the period when the possession of the right, interest, and property in and to the said double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way shall have been assumed by His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, as hereinbefore authorised, all tolls and profits arising therefrom shall be paid into the hands of His Majesty's Receiver General, to and for the public uses of this Province, at the disposal of the Legislature thereof, and shall be accounted for to His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, through the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, in such manner and form as His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors shall be graciously pleased to direct: Provided always, that the said double or single iron or wooden Rail Road or Way shall be commenced within four years after the passing of this Act, and finished in ten years, otherwise this Act, and every matter and thing herein contained shall cease and be utterly null and void.

XXV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall not be construed to give power to the said Company to erect ways or works of any description upon or over any River so as to interfere with the free use and Navigation thereof.

XXVI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That notwithstanding the privileges hereby conferred, the Legislature may at any time hereafter make such addition to this Act or such alteration of any of its provisions as they may think proper for affording just protection to the public or to any person or persons, body politic or corporate, in respect to their estate, property or rights or interest therein, or any advantage privilege or convenience connected therewith, or in respect to any way or right of way, public or private, that may be affected by any of the powers given by this Act.

XXVII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any action or suit shall be brought against any person or persons for any matter or thing done in pursuance of this Act, such action or suit shall be brought within six Calendar Months next after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and the Defendant or Defendants in such action or suit may plead the general issue only and give this Act and the special matter in evidence on the trial.