

place of meeting ; and the said Arbitrators shall have power to summon witnesses, and to swear them, and having heard them on oath, the said Arbitrators, or any two of them, shall make their award in writing under their hands, and they shall determine and adjudge by whom the costs attending such award shall be paid, and such award is hereby declared to be final and conclusive between the said parties.

Public Act. V. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.

C A P. C L V I I .

An Act to authorize Investigations in cases of Accident by Fire in Quebec and Montreal.

[Assented to 30th May, 1855.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is highly desirable that the cause or origin of every Fire, by which any house or other building, in either of the cities of Quebec or Montreal, is either wholly or in part consumed, should be ascertained, in order to the adoption of such measures as may be required for the purpose of diminishing the frequency of such Fires : Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows :

Inspector and Superintendent of Police to inquire into the origin of every fire.

Power to examine on oath.

I. That it shall be the duty of the Inspectors and Superintendents of the Police for the cities of Quebec and Montreal respectively, whenever any Fire shall occur, whereby any house or other building, in such cities respectively, shall be wholly or in part consumed, to institute an inquiry into the cause or origin of such Fire ; and for that purpose they are hereby authorized and required to summon and bring before them all persons whom they may deem capable of giving information or evidence touching or concerning such Fires, and to examine such persons under oath, and to reduce their examinations to writing and return the same to the Clerk of the Peace for the District within which the same may be taken respectively.

To inquire whether fire was accidental or otherwise.

II. Such Inspectors and Superintendents of the Police shall inquire into the cause or origin of the Fire, and whether the same was kindled by design or was the result of accident or of negligence, and shall act accordingly.

Power to compel the attend-

III. If any person, summoned to appear before an Inspector and Superintendent of the Police, in virtue of this Act, shall neglect

neglect or refuse to appear at the time and place specified in the Summons, or if any person, appearing in obedience to any such Summons, shall refuse to be examined or to answer any question that may be put to him in the course of his examination, it shall be lawful for such Inspector and Superintendent of Police to enforce the attendance of such person, or to compel such person to answer, as the case may require, by the same means as are used by him for such purposes in other cases.

ance of witnesses.

C A P . C L V I I I .

An Act to alter and extend the limits of the Quebec Circuit.

[Assented to 30th May, 1855.]

WHEREAS it would be much more convenient to the inhabitants of the Parishes of St. Michel, St. Vallier and St. Raphael in the County of Bellechasse, that they should be detached from the St. Thomas Circuit and included in the Quebec Circuit: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, as follows:

Preamble:

I. Upon, from and after the first day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, the said Parishes of St. Michel, St. Vallier and St. Raphael, in the County of Bellechasse, shall cease to form part of the St. Thomas Circuit, and shall be attached to and make part of the Quebec Circuit, and so much of the Act passed in the twelfth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and intituled, *An Act to amend the laws relative to the Courts of original civil jurisdiction in Lower Canada*, as includes the said Parishes in the St. Thomas Circuit, shall be repealed: Provided always, that all suits and proceedings commenced in the St. Thomas Circuit before the day last aforesaid, may be continued to final judgment and all proceedings in such actions after judgment may be had in the St. Thomas Circuit, as if this Act had not been passed.

On and after 1st July, 1855, the Parishes of St. Michel, St. Vallier and St. Raphael to be detached from the St. Thomas and added to the Quebec Circuit.

Proviso.