

*Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada*, passed in the year 1851. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1852.

16 Victoria – Chapter 169

**An Act in addition to the General Railway Clauses Consolidation Act. Assented 14th June, 1853.**

Whereas it is necessary to make provision for the protection of persons and property passing over Railways from criminal attempts to injure the same and for other purposes connected with Railways in this Province, and to amend the General Railway Clauses Consolidation Act: 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, 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, That if any person shall, wilfully and maliciously displace or remove any Railway switch or rail of any Railroad, or break down, rip tip, injure or destroy any Railroad track or Railroad bridge or fence of any Railroad, or any portion thereof, or place any obstruction whatsoever on any such rail or Railroad track, or bridge, with intent thereby to injure any person or property passing over or along such Railroad, or to endanger human life, every such person so offending, shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and shall be punished by imprisonment with hard labor in the Common Gaol of the Territorial Division in which such offence shall be committed or tried, for any period not exceeding one year from conviction thereof; and if in consequence of such act done with the intent aforesaid, any person so passing over and along such Railroad, shall actually suffer any bodily harm, or any property passing over and along such Railroad shall be injured, such suffering or injury shall be an aggravation of the offence, and shall render such offence a felony, and shall subject the said offender to such punishment by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than two years, as the circumstances of the case may, in the opinion of the Court before which he shall be convicted, appear to be proportionate to the offence and the mischief occasioned by it.

II. And be it enacted, That if any person shall wilfully and maliciously displace or remove any Railway switch or rail of any Railroad, or shall break down, rip up, injure or destroy any Railroad track or Railroad bridge or fence of any Railroad or any portion thereof, or place any obstruction whatever on any such rail or Railroad track or bridge, or shall do or cause to be done any act whatever whereby any engine, machine or structure, or any matter or thing appertaining thereto shall be stopped, obstructed, impaired, weakened, injured or destroyed, with intent thereby to injure any person or property passing over or along such Railroad, and if in consequence thereof any person be killed or his life be lost, such person so offending shall be deemed guilty of manslaughter, and being found guilty, shall be punished by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for any period not more than ten nor less than four years.

III. And be it enacted, That if any person shall wilfully and maliciously do or cause to be done, any act whatever whereby any building, fence, construction or work of any such Railroad, or any

engine, machine or structure of any such Railroad, or any matter or thing appertaining to the same shall be stopped, obstructed, impaired, weakened, injured or destroyed, such person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by imprisonment with hard labor not exceeding one year, in the Common Gaol of the Territorial Division in which such offence shall have been committed or tried.

IV. And be it enacted, That notwithstanding any thing in the said General Act, or in any Act. or Special Act heretofore passed or that hereafter may be passed, incorporating any Railway Company, wherein provision is made for the deposit of surveys, maps and books of reference, in the offices of the Clerks of the Peace and the Secretary of the Province, or in any other place, and wherein a time is specified in any such Act for such deposit, and where such time has elapsed or the Company may have omitted to make such deposit, such Company may extend the period for depositing such surveys, maps and books, absolutely for one year from the passing of this Act, and all surveys, maps and books deposited within the said year after the passing of this Act shall be taken to be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes as if the same had been duly deposited within the time mentioned in any such Act of Incorporation as aforesaid, and any such omission within such extension, shall not be taken to work any forfeiture of the Charter of any such Company.

V. And be it declared and enacted, That notwithstanding any thing in the said General Railway Clauses Consolidation Act contained, it has not been, nor is, nor shall be lawful for the Mayor, Reeve or other Chief Officer, or other person representing any Municipality having or taking Stock in any Railway Company incorporated or to be incorporated in this Province, by any Act of this Session, either directly or indirectly to vote on the election or appointment of the private Directors of such Company, unless the Special Act of Incorporation of such Company shall expressly provide therefor in the said Special Act.

VI. And be it enacted, That in all cases where Railroads pass any Draw or Swing Bridge over any navigable River, Canal or Stream which is subject to be opened for the purposes of navigation, the Trains shall in all and every case be stopped at least three minutes, to ascertain from the Bridge Tender that the said Bridge is closed and in perfect order for passing, and in default of so stopping during the full period of three minutes the said Railroad Company shall be subject to a fine or penalty of One Hundred Pounds.

VII. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of every Railway Company, whether any of the clauses or provisions of the said Act be or be not incorporated with the Act incorporating such Company, to cause all cleared land or ground adjoining their Railway and belonging to such Company, to be sown or laid down with grass or turf, and to cause the same so far as may be in their power to be covered with grass or turf, if not already so covered, and to cause all thistles and other noxious weeds growing on such land or ground, to be cut down and kept constantly cut down or to be rooted out of the same; and if any Railway Company shall fail to comply with the requirements of this Section within twenty days after they shall have been required to comply with the same, by notice from the Mayor, Reeve or Chief Officer of the Municipality of the Township or County in which such land or ground shall lie, such Company shall thereby incur a

penalty of Ten Shillings to the use of such Municipality for each day during which they shall neglect to do any thing which they are lawfully required to do by such notice, and it shall be lawful for the said Mayor, Reeve or Officer, to cause all things to be done which the said Company were lawfully required to do by such notice, and for that purpose to enter by himself and his assistants or workmen upon such lands or grounds, and such Municipality may recover the expenses and charges incurred in so doing, and the said penalty with costs of suit, in any Court having jurisdiction in civil cases to the amount sought to be recovered.

VIII. And for avoiding doubts under the said Act, Be it declared and enacted, That it is not, and shall not be lawful for any Railway Company, to take possession of, use or occupy any lands vested in Her Majesty, without the consent of the Governor in Council; but that with the consent of the Governor in Council, it is and shall be lawful for any such Railway Company, to take and appropriate for the use of their Railway and works, but not to alienate, so much of the wild lands of the Crown not heretofore granted or sold, lying on the route of the said Railway, as may be necessary for their Railway, as also so much of the land covered with the waters of any Lake, River, Stream or Canal, or of their respective beds, as may be found necessary for making and completing and using their said Railway and Works; Provided always, That it shall not be lawful for any such Company to cause any obstruction in or impede the free Navigation of any River, Stream or Canal to or across or along which their Railway may be carried, and if such Railway shall be carried across any navigable River or Canal, the Company shall leave openings between the abutments or piers of their Bridge or Viaduct over the same, and shall make the same of such clear height above the surface of the water, or shall construct such Draw Bridge or Swing Bridge over the Channel of the River, or over the whole width of the Canal, and shall be subject to such regulations as to the opening of such Saving Bridge or Draw Bridge as the Governor in Council shall from time to time make, nor is it, nor shall it be lawful for any such Company to construct any Wharf, Bridge, Pier or other work upon or over any navigable River, Lake or Canal, or upon the beach or bed or lands covered with the waters thereof, until they shall have first submitted the plan and proposed site of such work to the Governor in Council, and the same shall have been by him approved; nor shall any deviation from such approved site and plan be made without his consent: Provided always that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit or affect any power expressly given to any Railway Company by its special Act of Incorporation or any special Act amending the same: And further provided that nothing herein contained, shall apply to the twenty-second and twenty-third paragraphs of the eleventh Section of the Railway Clauses Consolidation Act.

IX. And be it enacted, That any Incorporated Railway Company shall be authorized to construct a branch or branches not exceeding six miles in length from any terminus or station of the Railway of such Company, whenever a By-law sanctioning the same shall have been passed by the Municipal Council of the Municipality within the limits of which such proposed branch shall be situate, and any such branch shall not as to the quality and construction of the road be subject to any of the restrictions which may be contained in the Act of Incorporation of such Company or in the Railway Clauses Consolidation Act, nor shall any thing in either of the said Acts authorize any Company to take for such branch any lands belonging to any party without the consent of such party first obtained.

X. And be it enacted, That the provisions of this Act shall from the passing thereof apply to every Railway made or to be made in this Province.