

Laws of Her Majesty's Province of United Canada, passed in the year 1854. Quebec: Stewart Derbyshire and George Desbarts, 1854.

18 Victoria – Chapter 157

**An Act to authorize Investigations in cases of Accident by Fire in Quebec and Montreal.
Assented to 30th May, 1855.**

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:

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