

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

18 Victoria – Chapter 31

An Act to authorize the City of Quebec to raise a Loan to consolidate their debt. Assented to 18th December, 1854.

Whereas by the Ordinance of the Special Council for the affairs of the late Province of Lower Canada, made and passed in the session thereof, held in the third and fourth years of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Ordinance to incorporate the City and Town of Quebec*, it is ordained and enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the Council of the City of Quebec to borrow on the credit of the said City, any sum of money exceeding the aggregate amount of the revenues of the said City for five years; And whereas it is necessary to make provision for the consolidation of the debt of the said City, and to determine clearly the amount of loans which may be contracted by the said City, and to provide for the repayment of the sums so borrowed: 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. In addition to any portion of the sums which the said Corporation is now authorized to borrow, and which may remain unborrowed at the time of the passing of this Act, and apart from what the said Corporation is authorized to borrow for Water Works, it shall be lawful for the said Corporation, to borrow from time to time under the provisions of this Act, such further sum as may be necessary to complete the drainage of the said City apart from the Water Works debt; provided, that the total amount of the sums to be borrowed in virtue of this Act shall not exceed fifty thousand pounds currency.
- II. Any sum which the said Corporation is empowered to borrow under this Act, may be borrowed either in this Province or elsewhere, and the principal and interest thereof may be made payable either in this Province or elsewhere, and either in the currency of Canada or in that of the place where the same shall be payable, and generally all the provisions of the Acts now in force as to the Debentures issued by the said Corporation, shall apply to those to be issued under this Act, except only in so far as they may be inconsistent with this Act.
- III. It shall also be lawful for the said Corporation to grant Bonds for Terminable Annuities to parties from whom they shall borrow any sum of money under the authority of this Act, instead of issuing to such parties Debentures of the nature mentioned in any preceding Act or Acts; and any such annuity may be made payable either in this Province or in any other Country, and either in the currency of this Province, or in that of the Country in which the same shall be payable, and the amount of any such Annuity, and the term during which it shall be payable may be such as shall be

agreed upon by the Corporation of the said City, and the other party interested, any law to the contrary notwithstanding; and any such Annuity may be made payable to the Bearer of the Bond or the proper Coupon, and either by yearly or half yearly payments, and generally the provisions of former Acts as to such Debentures as aforesaid, shall be applicable so far as the case will admit, to Bonds for Terminable Annuities to be issued under this Act: Provided always, that in calculating the amount of the debt of the said City, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the amount limited by this Act has or has not been exceeded, each such Bond shall be reckoned as representing an amount of debt equal to the sum which the Corporation obtained for it; And provided also, that the term for which any such annuity shall be granted shall not exceed twenty years.

IV. Any Debenture or Bond issued by the said Corporation after the passing of this Act, shall be held to form part of the Consolidated Debt of the said City, whether it be issued to any party actually making a new Loan to the Corporation, or to a party taking such Debenture or Bond in exchange for another or others issued before the passing of this Act, and forming part of the said General Debt.

V. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the City of Quebec, before the quarterly meeting of the Council of the said City in the month of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in each year thereafter, to take from and out of the annual revenues and funds of the Corporation of the said City of Quebec, after the payment of the sums mentioned in the sixth section of an Act passed in the sixteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to authorize the City of Quebec to raise a Loan to consolidate their debt*, but before the payment of any other appropriation whatsoever of the said revenues or funds, a sum of money equal to two and a half per cent, on the then outstanding Consolidated Debt of the City, secured otherwise than by Bonds for Terminable Annuities, which said sum of money the said City Treasurer shall keep apart from all other moneys, to be invested and applied under the orders of the City Council, solely and exclusively as a Sinking Fund, towards the extinction of that portion of the said consolidated debt secured otherwise than by Bonds for Terminable Annuities; it shall also be the duty of the said Treasurer at the same time to take from and out of the annual revenues and funds of the said City, before the payment, of any appropriation whatsoever of the said revenues or funds, such sum of money as will be sufficient to pay all the sums then due or to become due during the then next six months, for Terminable Annuities granted under this Act; and it shall be the duty of the Mayor or person acting as such, for the time being, and of the Councillors of the said City, to see that the provisions of this section be strictly carried out in each year, by the persons whose duty it is to carry out the same, and within the time prescribed therein, and that the sum set apart as a Sinking Fund be invested without delay in the Public Provincial Securities, or in the Stock of such of the Chartered Banks of this Province as shall afford the most ample security and be the most advantageous to all the parties concerned; and that any sum so set apart for the payment of Terminable Annuities be invested in the most advantageous manner, consistent with its being at the command of the Treasurer when required to pay such annuities: And it shall be the duty of the City Treasurer to place before the Council, at its first Meeting in the month of March in each year, a certificate signed by himself and countersigned by the Mayor of the said City, to the effect that he has faithfully fulfilled the obligations imposed upon him by the present section of this Act, and

in default of his so doing the said City Treasurer shall ipso facto become and be liable to pay to the said Corporation a fine of Five Hundred Pounds currency, which said fine the said Council shall exact from the said Treasurer within the shortest possible delay, and the same shall form part of the Sinking Fund aforesaid, or shall be applied to pay off the said Annuities, if not required for the said Sinking Fund; and for the purpose of furnishing additional and more ample security to the lenders of the said money, it shall be the duty of the Auditors of the said City annually to lay before the said Council a statement under oath, showing whether the said Treasurer has or has not fulfilled all the obligations imposed upon him in and by the said section.

VI. If hereafter at any time it shall happen that the moneys in the hands of the Treasurer of the said City, and applicable to the payment of the interest or of the principal of the said consolidated debt of the said City, or any terminable annuity forming part of the said consolidated debt, shall be insufficient to pay any such interest or principal or annuity then due, it shall be the duty of the said Treasurer to calculate what rate in the pound upon the assessed annual value of the property liable to assessment in the said City, will, in his opinion, (after making fair allowances for expenses, losses and deficiencies in the collection of such rate) be required to produce a sum sufficient, with the moneys in his hands applicable to the purpose, to pay the sum due for such principal, interest and annuity, and to certify such rate under his hand to the Clerk of the said City, for the information of the Council, in the following form, or to the like effect:

“Sir, — I hereby certify, for the information of the Council of the City of Quebec, that a rate of _____ in the pound, on the assessed yearly value of the property liable to assessment in the said City, is in my opinion (after making a fair allowance for expenses, losses and deficiencies in the collection of such rate) required to produce a nett amount equal to that now due for interest, (principal, if any be due) and annuities forming part of the consolidated debt of this City.”

And such certificate shall have the like effect as a By-law of the Council of the said City, lawfully imposing the rate therein mentioned, and shall be obeyed and acted upon by all Officers of the Corporation and by all others, and the rate therein mentioned shall be forthwith levied and paid accordingly, and in addition to any other rates lawfully imposed by any By-law of the City Council, notwithstanding any provision in the ordinance hereby amended or in any other Act, limiting the amount of rates to be imposed in any one year, or as to the time of the year at which rates may be imposed, levied or collected; and the proceeds of such rate shall be applied first to the payment of the principal, interest and annuities, as the case may be, for the payment whereof the rate was imposed, and if there be any surplus of the said proceeds, such surplus shall make part of the Sinking Fund for the extinction of the said Consolidated Debt, or if there be no part of the said debt for which a sinking fund is required under this Act, then such surplus shall be applied to the general purposes of the Corporation.

VII. If hereafter at any time, any Sheriff shall receive a writ of execution, commanding him to levy any sum of money due by the said Corporation for the principal or interest of any Debenture or Corporation Bond, forming part of the said consolidated debt of the said City, or for arrears of any annuity forming part of the said consolidated debt, the plaintiff may require and the Court may order, that such execution be levied by rate; and if such order be made, the Sheriff shall cause a

copy of such writ to be served upon the Treasurer of the said City; and if the money therein mentioned, with all the lawful interest and costs which the Sheriff is commanded to levy, be not paid within one month from the time of such service, the Sheriff shall himself calculate, as nearly as may be, what rate in the pound upon the assessed annual value of the property liable to assessment in the said City will, in his opinion, after making fair allowances for expenses, losses and deficiencies in the collection of such rate, be required to produce a nett amount equal to the sum, interest, and costs lie is commanded to levy, and ten per centum thereon in addition, and shall certify such rate under his hand to the Clerk of the said City for the information of the Council thereof, in the manner and form *mutatis mutandis* prescribed for the certificate of the Treasurer in the sixth section of this Act, and shall attach thereto his precept commanding the said Corporation and all the officers whom it may concern, forthwith to cause the said rate to be levied and the proceeds thereof paid over to him; and such certificate shall have the like effect as the certificate of the Treasurer, in the sixth section mentioned, and such precept shall be deemed an Order of the Court out of which the writ issued, and shall be obeyed by the said Corporation, and by all officers thereof, and others whom it may concern, on pain of their personal responsibility to the said Court; and the rate mentioned in the said certificate shall be forthwith levied by and paid to the said Sheriff accordingly, and in addition to any rates lawfully imposed by any By-laws of the City Council, or by any certificate of the City Treasurer, notwithstanding any provision in the Ordinance hereby amended or in any other Act, limiting the amount of rates to be imposed in any one year, or the time of the year at which rates are to be levied and collected; and it shall be the duty of the Treasurer and Clerk, and of all assessors, collectors and other officers of the said Corporation, to produce to the Sheriff on his demand, all assessment books, papers and documents requisite for enabling him to fix the rate mentioned in this section, and to give any information or assistance which he may require for the purposes thereof, and all such officers of the Corporation shall, for all the purposes of this section, be deemed officers of the Court out of which the writ issued, and amenable to and punishable by such Court accordingly, in case of any failure to perform any of the duties hereby assigned to them respectively: and the proceeds of the said rate shall, by the Treasurer, be paid over to the said Sheriff, and by him applied to the satisfaction of the debt, interest and costs he was commanded to levy, and if there be any surplus after satisfying the same, the said surplus shall be paid back to the Treasurer and form part of the sinking fund for the extinction of the said consolidated debt, or if there be no part of the said debt for which a sinking fund is required under this Act, then such surplus shall be applied to the general purposes of the said Corporation.

VIII. Provided always, and be it declared and enacted, That nothing here contained shall be construed to impair or affect any special privilege or hypothec, granted by the Ordinance hereby amended or by any other Acts, to the holder of any Debenture or Corporation Bond issued before the passing of this Act, forming part either of the said "General debt," or of the said "Water Works debt" of the said Corporation, or any remedy which without this Act any such holder would have, to recover the principal or interest of such Debenture or Corporation Bond, or in any way to relieve the said Corporation from the obligation to make provision by all lawful means for the payment of the same; and that no further provision which the Legislature of the Province may deem it expedient to make for enforcing the provisions of this Act, or the due payment of the principal and interest of any Debenture or Corporation Bond, whether issued before, or after the

passing of this Act, or of any annuity secured by any Corporation Bond, shall be deemed an infringement of the privileges of the said Corporation, or of any citizen or member thereof.

IX. This Act shall be deemed a Public Act.