

continent return-  
ing protested;

Subject to 4 per  
cent. damages and  
interest.

Bills, orders,  
notes, &c. protest-  
ed within the pro-  
vince.

Subject to 6 per  
cent. interest till  
paid.

If drawn on dif-  
tant parts of the  
province,

Subject to 4 per  
cent. damages be-  
sides interest.

Expence of not-  
ing, &c. to be al-  
lowed.

Rate of interest  
fixed at 6 per cent.

Penalty on per-  
sons taking a great-  
er interest.

tion hereof, return under protest; and all bills of exchange hereafter to be drawn here, on persons residing in the said colonies, and returning protested; shall be subject to four per cent. damages, and six per cent. per annum interest, upon the principal sum furnished here, from the day of the date of the protest, to the time of payment.

III. All bills, orders, or mandates drawn, after the publication hereof, by persons residing in this province, on persons living in the same, and notes of hand given in the province; if protested for non-payment, shall be subject to six per cent. per annum interest, from the date of the protest to the time of payment: excepting only that such bills, orders or mandates, when drawn in or upon any place beyond the Long Sault on the Ottawa river, or beyond Oswegatché, in the upper parts of the province, or in or upon any place below Cape Cat on the south side, and the Seven Islands on the north side of the river Saint Laurence, shall be subject, when protested, to four per cent. damages, besides the said interest of six per cent. per annum.

IV. In all the said cases of protest, the expence of noting and protesting the bill, and the postages thereby incurred, shall be allowed and paid to the holder, over and above the said interest and damages.

V. From and after the publication of this ordinance it shall not be lawful, upon any contract, to take, directly or indirectly, for loan of any monies, wares, merchandize, or other commodities whatsoever, above the value of six pounds, for the forbearance of one hundred pounds for a year, and so, after that rate, for a greater or lesser sum or value, or for a longer or shorter time; and the said rate of interest shall be allowed and recovered, in all cases where it is the agreement of the parties that interest shall be paid: and all bonds, contracts, and assurances whatsoever, whereupon or whereby a greater interest shall be reserved and taken, shall be utterly void; and every person who shall, either directly or indirectly, take, accept, and receive a higher rate of interest, shall forfeit and lose, for every such offence, treble the value of the monies, wares, merchandize, and other things lent or bargained for; to be recovered by action of debt in any of the courts of Common-Pleas in this province; a moiety of which forfeiture shall be to his Majesty, and the other moiety to him or them that will sue for the same.

G U Y C A R L E T O N.

*Ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid, and passed in Council under the Great Seal of the province, at the Council-chamber in the castle of St. Lewis, in the city of Quebec, the fourth day of March, in the seventeenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, and so forth, and in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.*

By His Excellency's Command,

J. WILLIAMS, C. L. C.