

An Act respecting Sessions of the Peace in Upper Canada.

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows :

Preamble.

I. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Peace for each County and Union of Counties in Upper Canada, to issue circulars to all the qualified Magistrates of such County or Union of Counties, inviting their attendance at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held in the month of December, in the year of our Lord, 1861, for the purpose of considering whether the Inferior Courts and the jurors summoned to attend thereat, may be diminished in number without detriment to public justice.

Notification to be sent by Clerks of the Peace to all Magistrates, to attend and consider questions.

II. And if at such General Quarter Sessions to be held as aforesaid, a majority of the Magistrates present shall resolve that the sittings of Inferior Courts may be so diminished in number, then and in such case within the County or Union of Counties to which the resolution applies, the sittings of the said Courts shall be held not oftener than three times a year, that is to say, on the second Tuesday in the months of April, August and December in each year after the passing of the resolution aforesaid.

When the Inferior Courts shall be held, if the Magistrates resolve to diminish the number of Sittings.

III. If at such General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held as aforesaid, a majority of the Magistrates present thereat shall resolve that the number of jurors hereinafter specified is sufficient to discharge the duties required to be performed by such jurors at the sittings of the Inferior Courts, then and in such case within the County or Union of Counties to which such resolution applies, it shall not be lawful to summon more than eighteen persons to act as Grand Jurors, nor more than thirty-six persons to act as Petit Jurors, of any sittings of such Inferior Courts to be held after the passing of the resolution aforesaid.

Number of jurors, if the Magistrates resolve to diminish the number.

IV. In every County or Union of Counties wherein no more than three General Sessions of the Peace shall be held in each year, it shall be the duty of the Magistrates for such County or Union of Counties, on the second Tuesday of the months of January, February, March, May, June, July, September, October and November, to hold a Petty Sessions of the Peace and to dispose of the cases of all persons imprisoned for larcenies and other minor offences : Provided always that at least five Magistrates shall be present and act in such Petty Sessions, and that they shall not have power to impose any fine exceeding the sum of Dollars, nor to sentence to imprisonment for any longer period than three months.

Petty Sessions to be held for the trial of petty offences.

Previous.