

CAP. XXVI.

An Act to authorise Assessments for the relief of Distressed Settlers, in certain cases.*(Passed the 11th day of April, 1848.)*

WHEREAS, during the two past Years, in consequence of the failure of the Potatoe and other Crops in particular sections of certain Counties of this Province, great distress and destitution have prevailed among portions of the resident Inhabitants thereof, and in order to relieve the same, special Grants have been afforded by the Executive, or portions, and in some cases the whole of the Road Monies in such Counties have been set apart for such purpose: *And whereas*, it has been found by experience that the said system of relief is open to abuse and mismanagement, and is therefore inadequate for the necessary and benevolent purposes intended:

Preamble.

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, That hereafter if any distress or destitution shall prevail in any County or District in this Province, in consequence of the failure of the Crops, or otherwise, so as to render public relief indispensable to any particular portion of the resident Inhabitants, it shall be lawful for the Custos Rotulorum, by and with the advice, and at the request of four other Justices of the Peace in said County or District, to summon a Special Sessions, to be held in not less than five days after due notice thereof shall be given, at which Sessions, after like notice, the Grand Jury shall be duly summoned to attend, and that it shall be lawful for said Sessions, after a due presentment of the sum required to be raised to relieve the destitution and distress, as aforesaid, then prevailing, be made to them by said Grand Jury, to order and direct the said sum so presented, or a less sum, to be assessed, levied, and collected in said County or District, in the same way and manner in every respect as if a Poor Rate were to be assessed, levied, and collected therein.

Assessment for sum required to relieve destitution and distress.

II. And be it enacted, That at the time such order is made, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said Sessions to apportion and divide the whole of the said sum to be assessed in said County or District among the several Townships or Settlements therein set apart for the support of the Poor, in such sums and proportions, respectively, as to them may appear just and equitable, and also to direct to which Overseers of the Poor, in particular, in the various Townships or Settlements, the different amounts, when collected, shall be paid over.

Division of Assessments among Townships.

III. And be it enacted, That after said order is made, and the proportions adjusted and divided, as aforesaid, the said several sums shall be assessed, levied, and collected in each of said Townships or Settlements set apart for the support of the Poor by the same Assessors and Collectors, and under the same Rules and Regulations as if the same had been a Poor Rate, ordered to be assessed, levied, and collected, under and by virtue of the several Acts of the Province for such purpose made and provided.

Collection of Assessments.

IV. And be it enacted, That the sums so assessed, levied, and collected, as aforesaid, shall be paid over to such Overseers of the Poor, and in such amounts, respectively, as may be directed by such order of Sessions, as aforesaid, and shall be distributed and accounted for by such Overseers of the Poor, respectively, in the same manner, and under the same Rules and Regulations as if the same had been a Poor Rate, assessed, levied, and collected under and by virtue of the said several Acts for such purpose made and provided.

Application of Assessments.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend to comprehend or in any manner affect the City of Halifax.

Not to extend to City of Halifax.