

BILL.

An Act to amend the Jury Laws in force in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Jury Laws in force in Lower Canada, Be it enacted, &c.,

That the number of Petty Jurors to be summoned to attend any Court of Criminal Jurisdiction in Lower Canada shall be not less than forty-eight, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. And be it enacted, That of the Grand Jurors and Petty Jurors summoned to attend at any Criminal Court to be holden in the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, in Lower Canada, one half in number of each list of such Jurors shall be competently skilled in the English Language and the other half in the French Language.

III. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful in any criminal trial in Lower Canada aforesaid, for the person charged or accused upon such trial to demand and have a trial or petty Jury, to be wholly composed of jurors competently skilled in either the English or French Languages, as aforesaid, as he may require, and upon his failure to demand the same, the trial Jury shall be composed of the first twelve Petty Jurors whose names shall be called in the order in which they stand on the list of Petty Jurors, and who shall be present in Court.

IV. And be it enacted, That in Criminal trials the Petty Jurors shall in no case be summoned to attend Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction from a greater distance than seven leagues from the place at which the Court is held.

V. And be it enacted, That all Merchants and Traders of lawful age, and all persons of lawful age proprietors of real estate of not less than fifteen pounds currency in yearly value, or tenants paying not less than fifteen pounds said currency of annual rent, shall be duly qualified to serve as Jurors in Civil Suits, and a list of such persons shall be made by the Sheriff in the manner in which the lists of Jurors are now by law required to be made, and from whom alone Jurors in Civil suits in any Court of Civil Jurisdiction in Lower Canada shall be taken or struck.