

BILL.

The Lower Canada Road Act.

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the Road Laws of Lower Canada, and to adapt them to the Municipal Institutions of that portion of the Province :—Be it therefore enacted, &c. Preamble.

SECTION I.

1. Every road or thoroughfare for carriages which shall have been declared a Public Highway by any *Procès-Verbal*, By-law or Order of any *Grand-Voyer*, Commissioner, District Council or Municipal Council, legally made, and in force when this Act shall commence, shall be held to be a Public Highway within the meaning of this Act, or of any other Act concerning the municipal system of Lower Canada, unless and until it be otherwise ordered by competent authority. What shall be deemed roads within the meaning of this act.

2. And any such road or thoroughfare openly used as such by the Public, without contestation of their right, during a period of ten years or upwards, shall be held to have been legally declared a Public Highway by some competent authority as aforesaid. Roads publicly used.

3. The word "Road" in this Act, or any such Act as aforesaid, shall mean a Public Highway and include all Bridges upon it, and all ditches and other works therewith connected, unless it be otherwise expressed or the context be inconsistent with such interpretation. Word "road" interpreted.

4. This Act shall not apply to roads or bridges under the control of the Commissioners of Public Works, unless and until the same shall be relinquished to the Municipal Authorities; nor to Roads in possession of any private party or Company under any Act or By-law. Act not to apply to certain roads.

5. But whenever any road or bridge theretofore under the control of the Commissioners of Public Works, or of any Trustees or other like authority, or of any incorporated Company or private party, shall cease to be under such control, such road or bridge shall thereupon be vested in the Municipality or Municipalities, in which it lies as public road, and shall be maintained and dealt with under the provisions of this Act. Proviso.

SECTION II.

1. Roads are distinguished into Front Roads and By-Roads; Front roads are those whose general course is across the lots in any Range or Concession, and which do not lead from one Range or Concession to another in front or rear thereof, in the same Parish or Township, or in another. Front roads and by-roads defined.

2. By-roads (*routes*) are those whose general course is lengthwise of the lots in any Range or Concession, or which lead from one Range or Concession to another in front or rear thereof in the same in Parish or Township or in another, or to a Banal Mill; and all other roads not being front roads. By-roads.