

BILL.

An Act for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

WHEREAS the establishment of an accurate and comprehensive system, providing for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, equally including all ranks of society, and religionists of every class, involves matters of great public interest, and may have a tendency to diminish the causes of litigation, render more certain in its operation the law of inheritance, aid in the removal of evils which affect landed estate, obstructing its acquisition, sale, and descent, and assist medical and statistical enquirers in their useful researches: And whereas, the ecclesiastical mode of enrolment, proved to be imperfect, partial, and unsatisfactory in England and France, has been, after full and careful enquiry, superseded by national civil arrangements which, interfering with no man's creed, confer valuable political privileges equally upon all ranks and conditions of the people: And whereas, ecclesiastical registers are especially unsuitable for civil purposes in Canada, the inhabitants of which have embraced or adopted various conflicting principles of religious belief: And whereas, it is expedient and desirable to adopt a uniform mode of record, through which the humblest as readily as the highest citizen may be enabled, with the least possible delay and expense, to trace his ancestry or parentage, and establish and maintain just claims to property and civil immunities; Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

That a Registrar General shall be appointed by the Governor in Council; as also a sufficient number of clerks and servants to carry on the business of his office, which shall be located at
and its records kept in a building not liable to accidents by fire.

II. That the Registrar General, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, may appoint a deputy, in case of illness only, which deputy shall have the same powers as are entrusted to the Registrar General by this Act, except as to making and rescinding rules, and as to the removal of persons holding offices.