

fusing or neglecting to attend, &c.

pointed by such summons, and no reasonable excuse for his absence shall be proved before the said Council or Committee or Committees, or if any person appearing in obedience to such summons shall refuse to be examined on oath touching the said inquiry or investigation, it shall be lawful for the said Mayor or Chairman as aforesaid to enforce the attendance of all such persons, and to compel such persons to answer all lawful questions, by like means as are used for such purposes in the ordinary Courts of Civil Jurisdiction in Lower Canada; and every person so neglecting or refusing to appear, or refusing to be examined on oath as aforesaid, shall moreover, on conviction thereof before the Recorder's Court of the said City of Quebec, forfeit and pay such sum of money, not exceeding five pounds, and be liable to such imprisonment, not exceeding thirty days, as to the said Recorder's Court shall seem meet; and any person who shall wilfully and corruptly give false evidence upon any such inquiry or investigation, shall be deemed guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall be liable to all the penalties of the said offence.

False swearing to be perjury.

Sect. 72 of 18 V., c. 159 repealed and a new section substituted.

XVII. The seventy-second clause of the said Act shall be and is hereby repealed, and the following shall be substituted in its place: "All debts which from and after the passing of this Act shall become due to the said Corporation, for any rate or assessment assessed or imposed on any real or personal property, or both, within the City of Quebec, or upon the owners or occupiers thereof, in respect of such property, or for duty on business, or for any other rate, tax, or impost levied under and by virtue of any by-law of the Council of the said City, shall be privileged debts, and shall be paid in preference to all other debts, excepting debts due to Her Majesty; and shall, in the distribution of the proceeds of property, whether real or personal, of any person liable to pay any such debt, be so held, considered, and adjudged by all Courts of Justice, and by all Commissioners or other persons having jurisdiction in bankruptcy or insolvency in Lower Canada: Provided always, that the privilege hereby granted shall not extend beyond the rates or assessments due for five years, that is to say, for the current year when such claim may be made, and for the five next preceding that year: And provided also, that the said privilege shall not require registration to preserve it,—any Act, ordinance, or law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Privileged claim of the corporation for monies due for assessments.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Act 9 V., c. 113 cited.

XVIII. And whereas the Corporation of the Mayor, Councillors, and Citizens of the said City of Quebec, have, by their petition, represented that further provisions are necessary to enable them properly to carry into effect the Act passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly in the ninth, and assented to by Her Majesty in the tenth year of her reign, and intituled *An Act for supplying the City of Quebec, and parts adjacent thereto, with water*, and the Acts amending the same, and have prayed that such provisions be made: Therefore it is enacted, that the minimum water-rate to be paid by any person or party liable in the said City of Quebec to water-tax, shall be four dollars per annum, anything in the said Acts to the contrary notwithstanding.

Minimum water rate altered.

Inconsistent provisions repealed.

XIX. All provisions of any law inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Public Act.

XX. This Act shall be deemed a public Act.