and such penalty shall be accounted for by any such Justice in the same manner as is provided for by an act passed in the fourth and fifth years of Her present Majesty's reign intituled, " An Act to require Justices of the Peace to make returns of " convictions and fines and for other purposes therein men-" tioned."

Interpretation of words.

XXXII. And be it enacted, that whenever the word "oath" is used in this act it shall be held to comprehend an affirmation if legally made and the word "person" or "persons" shall be taken to comprehend a body politic or corporate or its 10 lawful agent or agents as well as an individual, and every word importing the singular number shall when necessary be deemed to extend to several persons or things and every word importing the masculine gender shall when necessary extend to a female as well as a male. 15

Gas works to be in operation within five years.

XXXIII. And be it enacted, that the Gas works hereinbefore mentioned shall be in operation within five years from the passing of this act, and in default thereof the privileges and advantages granted by this act shall cease and be of no effect.

Public Act.

XXXIV. And be it enacted, that this act be and is hereby declared to be a public act, and that the same may be construed as such by all Judges Justices and Courts in this Province.

Duration of Act

XXXV. And be it enacted, that this act shall be and re- 25 main in force for fifty years and no longer.

20