

399

FOR REMOVAL OF CIVIL DISABILITIES OF THE JEWS.

CANADA.

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

BILL.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

No. 683.)

AN ACT to extend certain Privileges therein mentioned to Persons professing the Jewish Religion, and for the obviating certain Inconveniences to which others of His Majesty's Subjects might otherwise be exposed.

WHEREAS serious inconveniences are experienced by persons professing the Jewish religion, being British subjects resident in this province, from their disability, under the existing laws, to have and keep authentic registers of the births, marriages and burials occurring among them, which disability may injuriously affect the interests of others of his Majesty's subjects throughout the province, and particularly those of such persons as may derive their titles to real property from persons so professing the Jewish religion: And whereas, it is expedient that there should be in each of the districts of this province fit and proper places of worship and of burial for the use of such persons; Be it therefore enacted, by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the province of Lower Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, intituled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the 14th year of his Majesty's "Reign, intituled, 'An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the "Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further Provision for the Government "of the said Province:" and it is hereby enacted, by the authority of the same, that the Prothonotaries of the Courts of King's Bench for the districts of Quebec, Montreal, and Three Rivers respectively, shall, immediately after the passing of this Act, open and keep in each of the said districts a register, to remain of record, wherein any person residing in the district in which such register shall be kept, being a British subject professing the Jewish religion, and above the age of 21 years, may inscribe his name, age, addition and place of residence, after oath by him made before the said Prothonotaries or any of them, that he believes himself to be of the full age of 21 years, and that he is a British subject professing the Jewish religion.

Preamble.
Prothonotaries of the Courts of King's Bench for the districts of Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers, to keep a register for inscribing the names, &c. of persons professing the Jewish religion.

2. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when and so soon as 15 persons shall have been so enregistered, it shall and may be lawful for any Justice of the Court of King's Bench, or Judge of the Provincial Court, as the case may be, upon petition to that effect to him made by seven persons so enregistered in his district; and such Justice is hereby required, upon such petition, to convene a public meeting of all persons so enregistered within his district, to be held in the chief city or town thereof, and at such place therein, and at such time as the said Justice shall deem it advisable to appoint, and to name some justice of the peace for the said district to preside at such meeting, and to make his return of the proceedings thereat to the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the said district, or Prothonotary of such Provincial Court, as the case may be: Provided always, that the day on which such meeting shall be held, shall not be more than 60, nor less than 30 days after the time at which the said petition shall have been presented; and that notice of such meeting shall be given, by inserting such notice during two weeks in such public newspaper as the said justice may appoint, or if no newspaper be published in his district, in such manner as the said justice shall direct.

When a certain number of persons have been so enregistered, any Justice of the Court of King's Bench, or Provincial Judge, may, upon a petition made to him, call a public meeting of the persons enregistered, to nominate and appoint a Justice of the Peace to preside at such meeting, who is to make a return of the proceedings to the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench.

Time within which such meeting is to be held.

3. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that at such meeting it shall be lawful for the persons so enregistered in the district in which such meeting shall be held, and then and there present, to elect by a majority of their votes, five persons from among such persons as shall have been enregistered in the same district as themselves, to be trustees for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, which persons shall be returned as such trustees by the justices of the peace presiding at such meeting, in his official return of the proceedings had at such meeting as before directed.

Persons at such meetings to elect, by a majority of votes, five persons to be trustees.

4. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when the said number of trustees shall have been so elected as aforesaid, they shall, by a majority of their votes, elect a chairman from among themselves, and shall in like manner elect a secretary and treasurer.

Trustees to elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer.

5. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that when and so soon as such election and return shall have been so made, the Prothonotary shall make an entry in the register by him kept as aforesaid, setting forth that such election was made in pursuance of this Act, and the time and place thereof, together with the names, additions and places of residence of the trustees so elected; and that when and so often as any of the said trustees shall die, leave the district, or resign such trust, the election of so many others as may be required to complete the said number of five, shall be proceeded to and recorded in the manner hereinbefore provided, save and except that at such election the chairman or the senior trustee shall preside, and shall make his return of the proceedings at such election in the manner hereinbefore prescribed; provided that no trustee shall remain in office longer than five years.

Duty of the Prothonotary after the election and return shall have been made to him by the Justice of the Peace.

6. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be lawful for the said trustees so elected and returned as aforesaid, to purchase and hold, or to acquire, have and hold, by devise, donation or otherwise for the purposes hereinafter set forth, in any part of the

Trustees may hold Lots of ground not exceeding a certain extent, and may appropriate the same.