

BILL

For the more expeditious and effectual adjustment of the Public Accounts of the Province.

WHEREAS the Settlement of the Public Accounts of this Province, by reason of various difficulties and misunderstandings which have occurred, have fallen into arrear, and whereas it is necessary to settle and adjust the said Accounts, and establish various claims of this Province, for monies levied on the subject therein, for the public uses thereof; may it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it 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 fourteenth 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 for the purpose of Examining, Adjusting and Settling the Public Accounts of of this Province,

shall be, and they are hereby nominated, constituted and appointed Commissioners for the Examination and Settlement of the Public Accounts of this Province, pursuant to and according to the provisions of this Act, who, or any of them are hereby authorised and empowered to meet as often as they may deem it necessary for the purposes of this Act, and to order and require from the proper Officers, all such papers and returns as they may think necessary, and to send for and examine such persons, papers and records as they shall judge necessary and proper for their information, in the execution of the powers vested in them, the said Commissioners by this Act, and to examine persons on oath if need be, which oath the said Commissioners are respectively hereby authorised to administer, when and as often as they may deem it necessary or expedient so to do; and any person being sworn before such Commissioners, who shall falsely swear, shall, on being thereof Lawfully convicted, incur and suffer the pains and penalties by Law provided, against wilful corrupt perjury.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that before entering upon their duties, pursuant to this Act, the Commissioners herein-above named shall severally take an oath before some one of His Majesty's Justices of any of the Court of King's Bench in this Province, well and truly to the best of their judgement, skill and understanding, to examine, adjust and settle the Public Accounts of the Province, and a true and faithful report make of the same, without fear, favor, affection or partiality, and as to right and justice it shall appertain.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Commissioners shall examine and adjust the said Public Accounts, by years or administrations, and ascertain the Amount of all monies levied upon His Majesty's Subjects, by Laws in this