

An Act to provide for the greater security of Life, and the protection of Property, on the Railways in this Province.

WHEREAS the many serious accidents which have lately occurred on the Railways in this Province render it necessary and incumbent on the Legislature to take steps to provide against their recurrence, as far as possible, in order that greater security and protection may be given to both life and property; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

Preamble.

I. From and after the passing of this Act no Railway Bridge, being more than forty feet in length, shall be constructed of any other material than Iron, to be either tubular or girder.

All Railway Bridges to be of iron.

II. A Board of Railway Commissioners, consisting of three persons, shall be appointed by the Government, who shall in their action be independent of the Board of Works, and who shall report quarterly to the Provincial Secretary, which Reports shall be laid before the Governor in Council, at the first Council which shall be held after the receipt of each Report: The said Commissioners shall be Engineers, and may have a Secretary: And the said Commissioners and their Secretary shall hold their appointments during good behavior, and shall not hold any other office under the Crown, or be appointed or elected to any other office, by any corporation, or by the people.

Board of Railway Commissioners to be appointed.

III. It shall be the duty of the said Commissioners, or any one of them, to inspect and examine all the Wooden Bridges and other wooden constructions already existing on the various lines of Railway within the Province of Canada, and who shall have power, and they are hereby required and enjoined after due examination of the same, to notify the various companies of any defects they or either of them may discover in such Bridges or other wooden constructions, along the lines of these respective Roads, and who shall at the time any such notice is given by them of any defect point out how the said defect may be removed, and shall forthwith furnish a plan or plans by which such required work shall be executed, and shall require the Company to whom any such notice is given forthwith to do the same, and to put on sufficient force to enable the work to be completed with all possible dispatch; and in case any such work so ordered to be constructed or substituted shall not be commenced within a given time, then it shall be the duty of the said Board of Commissioners, or either of them, forthwith to take charge of such portion of the Road, where the said work is required to be done, and have the work done without delay under his or their superintendence: So soon as the said Board of Commissioners or either of them shall commence the work as aforesaid, they or he, as the case may be, shall notify the Board of Directors, and the Officer having charge

Board to examine all wooden works on Railways, and if they find them defective, to order them to be properly constructed; or in default of the Company's obeying such order, the Board may construct them at the Company's expense.