

An Act to facilitate the drainage of land in Canada.

WHEREAS it is of the utmost importance to the Agricultural inter- Preamble
 ests of the Province to encourage a thorough system of under-
 drainage, and whereas the expense of thorough drainage although very
 considerable has been found by experience to be highly remunerative
 5 and greatly to diminish the casualties incident to grain crops and
 particularly to winter wheat, the great staple production of the Province of
 Canada, and more capital is required to carry on such improvements than
 farmers generally have at their command, without resorting to loans
 from capitalists, and it is therefore indispensable to afford every facility
 10 for enabling the farmer to give the best security a lender can desire:
 Therefore, Her Majesty &c., enacts as follows:

I. In the construction of this Act the word "Commissioners" shall Interpretation
 mean any Commissioners appointed to carry out the provisions of this of certain
 Act and the word "Land owner" shall mean any persons entitled in words and ex-
 15 possession to any land in fee simple, or as tenant in tail or by the
 feoffees or for his own life, or any officers or trustees for any charit-
 able or other purposes; or any ecclesiastical or other corporation,
 aggregate or sole, or any mortgagee or incumbrancer in fee in possession
 20 of the land mortgaged or encumbered, or any person entitled to any
 lands subject to any mortgage or charge thereon, provided such person
 shall be in possession of the lands mortgaged or charged, and the word
 "Works" shall extend to all embankments, dams, cuts, watercourses,
 ditches, drains, floodgates, tunnels, sluices, engines, engine houses or
 25 machinery for the elevation and discharge of water, and all other works
 necessary and proper for the executing of the contracts hereby authorized
 to be made, and every word importing the masculine gender only shall
 extend and be applied to a female as well as a male; and the word
 "Company" shall mean any company which has already been or may
 30 hereafter be incorporated for the purpose of loaning money, or for the
 purpose of constructing any of the works proposed under this Act, and
 the word "Engineer" shall mean any assistant commissioner, surveyor
 or engineer appointed by the commissioners to inspect the said works.

II. If any Land owner shall be desirous of exercising any of the Proceedings
 powers under this Act, he shall enter into, and execute a contract with to enable a
 35 any of the said Companies, for the loan of money for the execution, or
 for the execution by them, of the necessary works, for the purposes of
 draining and embanking such lands, or for either of the said purposes;—
 in such contract, shall be stated and set forth, the nature of his estate
 and interest in the lands proposed to be drained or embanked, the
 40 particulars of such lands a specification of the works intended to be
 executed, the then net estimated annual value of the lands proposed to be
 drained or embanked; an estimate of the probable increased annual value
 of such lands, when the intended works shall have been executed; the
 amount which under, and by virtue of such contract, as aforesaid, is to
 45 be paid to said Company, for the execution of the same, or is to be ad-
 vanced by the said Company, to be expended for the execution of the
 said works.