



No. 34.

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2nd Session, 1st Parliament, 32 Victoria, 1869.

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BILL.

An Act to enable the St. Francis and  
Yamaska Rivers improvement and  
deepening Company to levy tolls on  
vessels navigating the said rivers.

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*PRIVATE BILL.*

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Mr. GEOFFRION.

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OTTAWA :

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An Act to enable the St. Francis and Yamaska Rivers improvement and deepening Company, to levy tolls on vessels navigating the said rivers.

**W**HEREAS the St. Francis and Yamaska Rivers improvement and deepening Company, have by their petition represented that the said Company have been formed and incorporated by Act of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, for the purpose of deepening the St. Francis and Yamaska Rivers, and for dredging and removing shoals and otherwise improving the navigation of the said rivers, and invested with the powers and privileges necessary for the successful carrying out of the works contemplated by them, and have prayed that upon the completion of the said works to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council, they may be authorized to levy tolls upon vessels navigating the said rivers, and upon goods and merchandize conveyed by such vessels, under the restrictions, limitations and conditions contained in their Act of incorporation ;

Preamble.

Therefore, Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows :

1. As soon as the works of the said Company shall be sufficiently advanced to render the said rivers navigable, to wit the St. Francis River from its mouth to the village of Pierreville, opposite the church, and the Yamaska river, from its mouth to some point one mile below the village of St. Aimé, during all seasons, by a channel of six feet deep, and sixty feet in width, the said Company may levy the tolls set forth in the Schedule of this Act on all vessels navigating the said rivers, and upon goods and merchandize carried by such vessels; but such tolls shall only be exacted when the vessels shall pass through those parts of the said rivers respectively made navigable by the said Company. Provided that the said Company shall levy no such tolls until notice shall have been given to the Minister of public works who shall immediately cause it to be ascertained whether such works have been executed according to the provisions of this Act; and if it is shown that the said Company has caused a channel to be made in one or both the rivers hereinbefore mentioned as to be improved by the said Company, of the width and depth determined by this Act, it shall be his duty to cause a report to be made to that effect to the Governor in Council, and upon proclamation to that effect, the said Company shall have authority to demand from the owner of any vessel intended to be passed through any portion of the said works of the said Company, or from any person in charge of the same, a written statement of each kind of goods forming the cargo of the same, as well as of the tonnage of such vessel; and if no such written statement is given when required or a false statement is given, the said vessel and such part of its cargo as was omitted by the false statement shall be liable to double toll; and the said Company shall have authority to demand and receive the lawful tolls upon all vessels as aforesaid and it shall be lawful for the said Company, by its servants, to have free access to all such vessels, for the purpose of measuring and counting the same, and if the lawful tolls shall not be paid on demand,

Company may take tolls where the rivers are deepened.

the said Company shall have power to sue for the same in any court of competent jurisdiction, and shall recover from the owner or owners of the vessels the amount of the tolls and the cost of suit; provided always that if the owner or owners of any such vessel, shall object to the amount of tolls demanded and shall tender a sum which he or they claim to be the true and just amount of the tolls, the said Company shall pay the costs of the suit, unless the judgment obtained shall be for a greater amount than the sum so tendered; Provided also that no tolls shall be exigible and payable unless there shall be at all times when said rivers are open for navigation, six feet of water in the 10 channel.

### SCHEDULE.

Tolls which the "St. Francis and Yamaska Rivers Improvements and deepening Company" are hereby authorized to collect, so soon as they shall have completed the improvements contemplated by their Act of incorporation:

On all vessels navigating the said rivers, per ton registered measurement .....	5 cents.
On iron, metals, salt, potash and pearlash, unhewn stone, mill and grind stones, and bricks carried by such vessels: per ton of 2,000 lbs.....	5 cents.
On all other effects and merchandize, &c., not hereinbefore enumerated, per ton, cubic measurement .....	5 cents.