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No. 105.

3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

BILL.

An Act to make better provision for the collection of claims against the owners of vessels, in certain cases.

Received and read, first time, Thursday, 12th
March, 1857.

Second reading, Tuesday, 17th March, 1857.

MR. FRAZER.

TORONTO:

An Act to make better provision for the collection of claims against the Owners of Vessels, in Upper Canada.

FOR the relief of persons who furnish provisions for, or render services to or sustain injuries from Vessels passing on or through any of the Canals in Upper Canada; Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows: Preamble.

I. Any debt or liability to whatever sum amounting, contracted by the owner, master, agent or consignee, in charge of any ship or vessel within the Province of Upper Canada,—

Debts of certain kinds contracted with regard to vessels passing through the canals in U. C. made a privileged lien.

1. For goods, wares, merchandize or provisions, furnished for the use of such ship or vessel,—

2. For labor, repairs or any kind of work done to or upon such ship or vessel,—

3. For towing such ship or vessel, with any steam vessel, horses or otherwise,—

4. For damages done to any other vessel or property by collision,—

shall be a lien upon such ship or vessel, and preferred to all others, and shall be recoverable from the owner, master, agent or consignee, in charge of such ship or vessel, saving any recourse he may have against any other party.

II. It shall and may be lawful for the creditor to whom any such debt is due, or towards whom any liability is incurred by the owner, master, agent or consignee of any ship or vessel for any of the causes above mentioned, or for any other person on behalf of such creditor, when the sum claimed does not exceed the jurisdiction of the Division Court, to make application to the Clerk of the Division Court of the Division wherein the ship or vessel may be, or to any Justice of the Peace having jurisdiction where such ship or vessel may be, and to make or cause to be made by some person cognizant of the facts, an affidavit or affirmation to the purport of that in the Schedule to this Act, and which the said Clerk of Justice of the Peace is hereby authorised to administer, and to file the said affidavit with the said Clerk or such Justice of the Peace, (and if a Justice of the Peace it shall be his duty to transmit the same to the Clerk of the Division Court within whose Division the application is made, to be filed and kept among the papers in the cause), and it shall then be lawful for such Clerk or Justice of the Peace forthwith to issue a warrant under his hand and seal directed to any Bailiff of the Division Court for

Mode of proceeding for the recovery of such debts.

Affidavit of facts.

Seizure of ves- the Division within which the same shall be issued, or to any Constable
sel. of the County, commanding him to attach, seize, take and safely keep the
ship or vessel on account of which the debt or liability was contracted,
(designating such ship or vessel by its name, if known, or if not, then by
some other description) as being the property or in the possession of the
defendant, to answer a certain claim of the plaintiff, (naming him), for
(stating the amount), against the said ship or vessel; and
upon receipt of such warrant the said Bailiff or Constable shall forth-
with execute the same in the like manner as an attachment against the
property of an absconding debtor is now required to be executed by the
Statute in such case provided, and shall proceed in the manner by law re-
quired in case of any such attachment; and the said vessel shall be
delivered over to the Clerk of the Division Court within whose Division
such attachment shall have issued, who shall keep and dispose thereof in
the same manner as goods seized under such attachment as aforesaid are
by law to be kept and disposed of.

Detention of
vessel.

Subsequent
proceedings
in any such
case.

III. All the proceedings subsequent to the issuing of such attachment
and seizure, shall be the same as the proceedings now are upon attach-
ment against absconding debtors in the Division Court, and the like bond
with the like sureties may be given by the owner, master, agent or con-
signee of any such vessel, and the plaintiff may proceed to judgment and
execution in the same manner as a plaintiff may now proceed to judg-
ment and execution against an absconding debtor, pursuant to the statute
that behalf.

Special provi-
sion when the
case shall have
arisen while
the vessel was
in one of the
canals.

IV. Provided always, That whenever the cause of action shall have
arisen while such ship or vessel was in any of the Canals in Upper Can-
ada, and the amount claimed shall not exceed the sum of £12 10s., it
shall be optional with the plaintiff to declare his intention to have the
case tried and determined before the Justice of the Peace before whom
the affidavit aforesaid shall have been taken, and by whom the warrant of
attachment shall have been issued, and some other Justice of the Peace
having jurisdiction in the place where the ship or vessel shall be found;
and in such case the affidavit shall not be transmitted to the Clerk of the
Division Court, but shall be kept by the Justice receiving it, and the
Bailiff or Constable shall not deliver over the ship or vessel to the Clerk
of the said Court but shall keep the same safely to await the order of
the Justices by whom the case is to be tried and determined; and the
plaintiff shall at the time of declaring such option, or within twenty-four
hours thereafter, deliver to such Justices his complaint, stating briefly his
cause of action, and requiring such Justice to issue his summons to the
Defendant, commanding him to appear before him and some other Justice,
as aforesaid, at a time (not being less than days nor more than
days after the service of such summons), and at the place to be named in
such summons; and such summons may be served by any such Bailiff or
Constable as aforesaid, by delivering a copy thereof and of the complaint,
certified by such Justice of the Peace, to the Defendant, or if he cannot
be found within the Division (of which fact the return of the Bailiff or
Constable shall be evidence) then by delivering the same for the Defend-
ant to the person in charge of such ship or vessel, or if there be no person
in charge thereof, then by posting the same in some conspicuous place in
such ship or vessel; and at the time appointed in such summons, the
Justice issuing the same, and any other Justice of the Peace having juris-
diction as aforesaid, shall and may hear the parties or party appearing
before them, and the evidence they may adduce, and shall have full power

to administer an oath or affirmation to any witness adduced by either party, and may, according to the facts proved, either dismiss the complaint with costs (which shall be those of the Division Court in like cases), or give judgment for such sum (not exceeding the amount aforesaid,) as they shall find the Plaintiff ought to recover from the Defendant, and the fees of the Bailiff or Constable for his services, (which shall be the same as would be allowed him for like services in a case in the Division Court,) and the sum of to the Justice or his Clerk for the warrant, and all other services; and if the amount of the judgment and costs be not forthwith paid, the said Justices may, by warrant under their hands and seals directed to any Bailiff or Constable as aforesaid cause, the same to be levied and made by the sale of the said ship or vessel or of the tackle and apparel thereof, or any goods found on board the same, (to whomsoever belonging, but saving the recourse of the owner against the Defendant,) with the costs of such sale (which shall be the same as would be allowed in the Division Court in like case) and the proceedings in such sale shall be as nearly as may be similar to those prescribed in like cases in the Division Court: and if there be any surplus of the proceeds of the sale, after paying the amount of the judgment and costs, it shall be returned to the Defendant, saving the recourse of any party entitled to the same.

Levying the amount of judgment and costs.

Surplus.

V. If any person shall have any claim for any of the causes aforesaid, against any ship or vessel, the owner or owners whereof is or are resident in a foreign country, or out of the Jurisdiction of the Court, and such claim shall be beyond the jurisdiction of the Division Courts, it shall be lawful for such person, upon making an affidavit or affirmation, stating with particularity that the owner or owners of such ship or vessel is or are justly and truly indebted to him or her in the sum of or (when the amount is not ascertained), that he hath a good cause of action against the Defendant as owner of the said ship or vessel, for (stating the cause of the action with certainty) and that the Defendant is or are resident in a foreign country, or beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; and upon filing the said affidavit with the Clerk of the Crown or Clerk of the Crown and Pleas, or Common Pleas, or any of the Deputy Clerks of the Crown and Pleas, or with the Clerk of any County Court, in any County of Upper Canada, (according as the case may be within the jurisdiction of one or the other of the said Courts), to obtain an attachment against the property of such ship or vessel directed to the Sheriff of any County in Upper Canada, which shall be in the same form as attachments now are against absconding or concealed debtors, (except that the word "absent debtor" shall be used in the place of "absconding" or "concealed debtors;" and all proceedings upon such attachments shall be in all respects the same as if the attachment were against an absconding or concealed debtor, and the plaintiff may proceed to judgment and execution in the same manner; Provided always that it shall not be necessary to leave a copy of the summons at the last place of residence of the defendant, but it shall be sufficient, in all cases, to place a copy in some conspicuous part of the office out of which the same shall issue.

Provision where the amount claimed is beyond the jurisdiction of Division Courts.

Attachment to issue.

Proviso.

VI. This Act shall apply only to Upper Canada.

Act limited to U. C.

SCHEDULE.

A. B., of *Yeoman*, maketh oath and saith that
 C. D., the owner, (master, agent or consignee, or as the case may be), of
 the vessel called the _____, (or if no name then some other
description) _____ now as this Defendant believes, wit-
 in the _____ Division for the County of _____ (or now within the County
 of _____ or now within the jurisdiction of this Court, as the
case may be), is justly and truly indebted to this deponent in the sum
 of _____, for goods sold and delivered by this deponent to, (or as
the case may be _____, Master (or agent, &c.) of the said vessel,
 for or on account of the said vessel, (or as the case may be). And depo-
 nent further saith that the said debt was contracted within the County of
 (County where attachment issues), and that to the best of Deponent's belief
 the owner of the said vessel resides out of the _____ (or
in the case mentioned in the third section of this Act, out of the jurisdiction
 of this Court.)

Sworn, &c,