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No. 175.

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5th Session, 8th Parliament, 63 Victoria, 1900

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BILL.

An Act respecting the Ottawa and Hull  
Fire Relief Fund.

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First reading, June 7, 1900.

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(PRIVATE BILL.)

MR. BELCOURT.

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OTTAWA

Printed by S. E. DAWSON

Printer to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty  
1900

An Act respecting the Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund.

**W**HEREAS it has been represented that on the twenty-sixth day of April last a great conflagration took place beginning in the city of Hull, province of Quebec, and extending into the city of Ottawa, and also several smaller fires in and about the said cities, causing a great loss of property and much distress in and about the said cities; that as the result of steps taken to obtain and distribute relief to the sufferers by the said fires the persons hereinafter named were appointed an Executive Committee to receive contributions and distribute relief; that a large amount of supplies and money has been contributed from different parts of the world; that the said supplies have been for the most part distributed, but that only a small portion of the money has been expended; that as questions have been raised and doubts expressed as to the powers, responsibilities and discretion of the said committee with respect to the said relief fund the said committee desires to be constituted a corporation with the powers necessary or proper to enable them to carry out the objects in view and to protect them in so doing; and whereas the work of distribution has to be done with respect to persons in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the work of the said corporation will have to be done in each of the said provinces, and the creation of the said corporation is therefore a proper subject of legislation by the Parliament of Canada: Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. George H. Perley, John C. Browne, John Sweetland, Fred. Cook, H. K. Egan, Dennis Murphy, William Hutchison, M.P., N. A. Belcourt, M.P., C. Berkeley Powell, M.L.A., Alexander Lumsden, M.L.A., His Worship Mayor Payment, Alderman Enright, Alderman James Davidson, Alderman Foster and Alderman Champagne, all of the city of Ottawa; L. N. Champagne, M.P., C. B. Major, M.L.A., His Worship Mayor Barrette and Alderman Helmer, of the city of Hull; now constituting the said Executive Committee are incorporated under the name of "The Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund," hereinafter called "the Corporation," with all powers incident to a corporation which may be necessary for the carrying out of the objects of this Act.

2. There shall vest in the Corporation the following property, that is to say:—

(a.) All unexpended moneys and undistributed goods contributed from any source and in any manner whatsoever for

the relief of the sufferers by the said fires to or through the said Executive Committee, and including, amongst others, the goods and other supplies now on hand or under the control of the said Executive Committee, and all moneys now at the credit of the Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund in the Bank of Ottawa or in any other bank, or now in the possession or control otherwise of the said Executive Committee or of any other person, committee, association, society, or incorporated or unincorporated body for the relief through the said committee of the said sufferers. 5 10

(b.) All moneys, goods or other supplies or contributions that may at any time after the passing of this Act be contributed to be expended or distributed by or through the said committee or the Corporation.

(c.) All the books, papers and documents of the said committee relating to the said fire relief. 15

Withdrawal  
of money  
from bank.

(2.) The cheques of the Corporation shall be signed by its chairman or vice-chairman and by its administrator and treasurer, and payment of the same to the extent of the amount thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to any bank in which any moneys are at the time or after the passing of this Act deposited as aforesaid in the name of "The Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund," and the receipt of the administrator and treasurer of the Corporation shall be a sufficient discharge for any other moneys or for any supplies with which the Corporation may become vested as aforesaid or otherwise. 20 25

How money  
and supplies  
to be distributed.

3. The Corporation shall take all the said moneys and supplies and, subject to the provisions of section 14 of this Act, pay, apply or distribute the same to the best of its judgment to sufferers, or for the benefit of, sufferers by the said fires, in such manner amongst such sufferers, and in such amounts, as in the absolute and uncontrolled discretion of the Corporation may seem proper or advisable, and the Corporation shall take such means as it thinks necessary or advisable to ascertain who the sufferers have been by the said fires, and in what way or to what extent they should be given relief by the Corporation. 30 35

Audit of  
accounts.

4. When the distribution of the said supplies and money shall have been substantially completed, the Corporation shall have an audit made of its accounts by some competent auditor whose appointment shall be approved of by the Governor in Council and shall publish the report of the said auditor, with such further statement as it thinks proper, in some one or more newspapers published in the cities of Ottawa and Hull for one or more issues thereof as it deems proper, and may also publish the same in such other way as it thinks advisable. 40 45

Report to be  
published.

Corporation  
not to be  
liable except  
for fraud.

5. Except as provided for by the next preceding section, and except as to any fraudulent act or fraudulent omission of the Corporation, the Corporation shall not, nor shall any of its members, be liable or in any way answerable for any of the acts, errors or omissions of the Corporation or of any of its officers, members, employees or agents, whether such acts, errors or omissions have taken place before or after the passing of this Act, with respect to the receipt, expenditure or distri- 50

bution of the said moneys or supplies, or of any portion thereof, or in any other respect in carrying out the objects of this Act.

6. There shall be a chairman, a vice chairman and an officer to be called administrator and treasurer of the Corporation, and such other officers and employees as the Corporation thinks proper. Officers of Corporation.

2. The said George H. Perley shall be the first chairman, the said John Sweetland the first vice-chairman and the said John C. Browne the first administrator and treasurer of the Corporation. First officers.

7. In the event of the death or resignation from office of any of the said officers the Corporation shall appoint a successor from among the members of the Corporation, and such successor shall have the same powers and duties as if he had been named as such officer in this Act. How vacancies filled.

8. The head office of the Corporation shall be in the city of Ottawa. Head office.

9. The first meeting of the Corporation shall be held in the city of Ottawa within ten days after the passing of this Act, and shall be called by the chairman or vice-chairman by notice mailed postage prepaid to each member of the Corporation at least twenty-four hours before the time fixed for the meeting, and the notice shall state the hour and place of meeting. First meeting of Corporation  
Notice.

10. At the said first meeting five members shall be a quorum, and the chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall preside. In the event of neither the chairman nor vice-chairman being present, the meeting may elect any other member of the Corporation present to preside. Quorum.

2. At such first meeting any business whatever may be done. Business.

11. In the event of the death or resignation of any member of the Corporation, the Corporation may elect a successor from the city of Ottawa or the city of Hull, as the case may be, to take the place of such person so dying or resigning as aforesaid, and such person so elected shall, from the time of such election, be a member of the Corporation as if he had been named in this Act. How vacancies in Corporation filled.

12. The Corporation shall deposit all moneys received by it in a chartered bank in the city of Ottawa, and shall keep such books of account and further record of its proceedings as it thinks necessary. Deposit of moneys.  
Record of proceedings.

13. Subject to the provisions of this Act the Corporation may make by-laws, rules or regulations as to the holding of its meetings, the appointment and duties of its officers and employees, the election of members to fill vacancies, the quorum at meetings, the internal government of the Corporation in other respects, and the carrying out of the objects of this Act. Power to make by-laws.

Payments  
which may  
be made.

**14.** The Corporation may, out of the moneys so to be dealt with it as aforesaid, pay all the employees of the Corporation or of the said Executive committee, and all such other expenses as it thinks necessary or proper to incur, or which it considers have been properly incurred by the said Executive Committee 5 or on its behalf, in connection with the carrying out of the objects of this Act or of the work of the said Executive Committee.

Limit of time  
for receiving  
contributions  
and claims.

**15.** The Corporation may, by advertisement in one or more newspapers as it thinks proper, limit a date after which it will 10 not receive any contributions, or may limit a date after which it will not receive any claims for assistance.

When  
Corporation to  
be dissolved.

**16.** When the report and statement referred to in section 4 of this Act has been published as therein provided, and the whole of the moneys to be dealt with by the Corporation have 15 been paid out and expended, the corporate powers of the Corporation shall be deemed to have ceased and the Corporation to be dissolved.

R.S.C., c. 118  
not to apply.

**17.** *The Companies Clauses Act* shall not apply to the Corporation. 20