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3d Session, 3d Parliament, 13 Victoria, 1850.

BILL.

An Act to relieve Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada from the obligation to obtain special Licenses in order to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in Lower Canada.

Received and Read a first time, Wednesday, 29th May, 1850.

Second Reading, Monday, 3rd June, 1850.

MR. EGAN.

BILL.

An Act to relieve Ministers of the Weslevan Methodist Church in Canada from the obligation to obtain special Licenses in order to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in Lower Canada.

WHEREAS it is expedient to relieve Ministers of the Preamble. Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada from certain disabilities and inconveniences under which they now labour in Lower Canada; Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

That it shall be lawful for any regularly ordained Min-Ministers of ister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, the Wesleyan Methodist having charge of any congregation in Lower Canada, to Church may obtain, have and keep, (subject to all penalties by the keep Registers law of Lower Canada in this behalf provided) registers 10 duly authenticated according to law, of all Marriages. Baptisms and Burials which may be performed or take place under the ministry of such Minister; and such Registers (the necessary legal formalities required by the laws of Lower Canada in relation to Registers of like 15 nature being observed) shall to all intents and purposes have the same effect in law, as if the same had been kept by any Minister of the Church of England or of Scotland.

II. Provided always, and be it enacted. That no such conditions on Minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, which such Registers shall 20 shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall be obtained. have taken the oath of allegiance before some Judge of the Superior Court in the District where he shall reside in Lower Canada, who is hereby required and empowered to administer the same; and a certificate of the taking of 25 such oath shall be made by the Prothonotary of the Court in duplicate and signed by the Judge; and one duplicate of such certificate shall be fyled of record in the office of such Prothonotary, and the other shall be delivered to the person taking such oath; and for such certificate and 30 duplicate thereof and for fyling the same, the Prothonotary shall be entitled to two shillings and six pence currency and no more; nor shall any Minister be entitled to the benefit of this Act, unless he shall at the time of taking such oath as aforesaid, produce to the Judge who 35 shall administer the same, the certificate of his ordination, or a properly attested copy thereof; and such document shall be copied into the Register to be kept by such Minister under this Act; and the copy so made therein

shall be certified to be correct, by the Prothonotary, before such Register shall be authenticated by him or by any Judge of the Court; nor shall such Minister be entitled to the benefit of this Act unless he shall at the time of taking the oath aforesaid, give security in the sum of one hundred pounds currency, jointly and severally with two good and sufficient sureties and to the satisfaction of the said Judge, that whenever he shall by death or otherwise cease to be the Minister of such congregation, each and every Register not previously deposited in the Prothono- 10 tary's office, in which it ought by law to be deposited, shall be so deposited within two months after he shall have ceased to be such Minister.

Duplicate Reproperty of the

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That whenever gister to be the the connection between any such Minister and the said 15 Congregation, congregation shall cease, the duplicate of the Register shall be the property of the said congregation, and shall be deposited with the Trustees thereof, to be kept by the successor of such Minister for the use of the said congregation. 20

Legal effect of entries in Registers.

IV. And be it enacted, That the Registers which shall have been so kept, and the several entries made therein according to the laws in force in Lower Canada, as well as authentic copies of such entries, shall to all intents and purposes be good and available in law, in like man- 25 ner as entries and authentic copies thereof made in any other like Register kept under the authority of the Act of the Legislature of Lower Canada, passed in the thirtyfifth year of the Reign of King George the Third, and intituled, "An Act to establish forms of Registers of Baptisms, 30 " Murriages and Burials, and to confirm and make valid " in law the Register of the Protestant Congregation of

Act of L. C., 31 (i. 3, c. 4,

> " Christ Church, Montreal, and others which have been " uniformly kept, and to afford the means of remedying the " omissions in former Registers;" Provided always, that all 35 and every the regulations and requirements of the said Act with respect to the Registers therein mentioned, be also observed with respect to the Registers to be kept pursuant to this Act: And provided also, that the Ministers

Proviso.

Proviso.

keeping Registers under this Act shall be governed by 40 the said Act, and shall in case of contravention thereof be liable to the penalties in like cases provided by the said Act, to be recovered, paid, applied and accounted for in the same manner.

Public Act

V. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public 45 Act, and construed as such.