



**BILL.**

An Act to provide for, and regulate the Inspection and Stamping of Gas Meters, and to protect the Consumers of Illuminating Gas.

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Mr. CRAWFORD.

QUEBEC:

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An Act to provide for, and regulate the Inspection and Stamping of Gas Meters, and to protect the Consumers of Illuminating Gas.

**WHEREAS** it is expedient to provide for a uniform Standard for the measurement of Gas, and for the Inspection and Stamping of Gas Meters; and also for preventing the manufacture or sale of impure Gas: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. After the passing of this Act, the only legal standard or unit of measure for the sale of Gas by the Meter, shall be the cubic foot containing 62.321 pounds avoirdupois weight of distilled or rain water weighed in air, at the temperature of 62 degrees of Fahrenheit's Thermometer, the Barometer being at thirty inches. Standard of  
Cubic foot.
2. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to appoint a competent person to be Inspector of Meters for this Province, with such salary or emoluments as shall be deemed expedient, such salary or emoluments to be charged upon the Gas inspection fund hereinafter provided for; and such Inspector shall reside wherever the Governor in Council shall from time to time direct. Governor in  
Council to  
appoint an  
Inspector.—  
Salary.
3. It shall be the duty of Inspector of Meters, as soon as may be after his appointment, to submit to the Governor in Council a design for a stamp for Gas Meters and Gas holders, to be examined, tested and stamped under this Act; and such design, if approved by the Governor in Council, or any other design that may be so approved, shall be adopted by the said inspector, and a duplicate of the stamp made from the design so adopted shall be deposited in the office of the Secretary of this Province; and the stamp so deposited shall be the only stamp which shall be used, or the use of which shall be lawful under the provisions of this Act. Inspector to  
design stamps  
&c.  
Stamps to be  
deposited in  
office of Sec-  
retary of Pro-  
vince.
4. In construing this Act, the word "Meter" shall mean Gas Meter, and shall include every kind of machine used in measuring Gas; and the word "Company" shall mean any person or persons, Joint Stock Company or Corporation, being manufacturers or sellers of Gas in this Province. "Meter" to  
include all  
machines for  
measuring  
Gas.
5. Within three months after the passing of this Act, two copies of one of the model Gas holders now deposited in the office of the Comptroller General of Her Majesty's Exchequer at Westminster, and in use in England, as exhibiting the legal standard for the measurement of Gas there, with balances, indices, and testing apparatus, shall be procured by the Provincial Secretary, such copies to be of some one Gas holder of a capacity of ten cubic feet, and to be verified and stamped by such Comptroller General for the time being, or by some other officer of Her Majesty's Exchequer at Westminster having authority for that pur- Two proof-  
tanks and ap-  
paratus to be  
procured from  
England.

One to be deposited in the office of the Secretary of the Province, and the other with the Inspector.

pose; and one of such copies with balances, indices, and testing apparatus, shall be deposited in the Office of the Secretary of the Province, and the other in the office of the Inspector of Meters; And such copies so verified, stamped and deposited, and each of them shall represent and constitute the standard by which all Meters for the measurement of all Gas sold in this Province, shall be tested. And in the event of the destruction or material injury of the copy of such Gasholder and apparatus so deposited in the Inspector's Office, the same shall be replaced by that in the Secretary's Office; and, if from that or any other cause, there shall cease to be one copy of such Gasholder with balances, indices, and testing apparatus deposited in the Office of the Secretary of this Province, another copy with apparatus, shall forthwith be procured from England by the Provincial Secretary, as hereinbefore provided, and shall be deposited in the said office.

Gas Companies to have testing apparatus stamped and sealed by the Inspector. Circular to be sent to each Gas Company.

6. It shall be the duty of the Inspector of Meters, immediately upon receipt of such copy of model Gas holder, indices, balance, and testing apparatus, to give notice of his reception thereof by a circular to be sent to each Gas Company, through the Post Office, and within three months from the depositing of such circular in the Post Office, addressed as aforesaid, every Gas Company in this Province, to whom such circular shall be so addressed, shall procure a Gasholder, measuring the said cubic feet with balances, indices and testing apparatus of the same description as those so deposited in the Inspector's Office, which Gasholder shall be of a capacity of not less than five cubic feet, and shall cause the same to be examined and tested with the copy of model so deposited, and to be duly numbered and stamped by such Inspector; and such Inspector shall grant a certificate under his hand of such comparison, testing numbering and stamping, and of the cubic contents of such Gasholders respectively, and shall retain a record thereof; and each Company shall retain such Gasholder with balances, indices and testing apparatus in good repair, at their office or chief place of business in the place where they shall carry on their trade; and any Company which shall fail or neglect to procure such Gasholder duly stamped with such balances, indices and testing apparatus, within three months after receipt of such circular as aforesaid, or having procured them, shall fail to retain them at their office or chief place of business, as aforesaid, or shall knowingly suffer them to remain for forty-eight hours unfit for use, for want of repair, without using due diligence to procure them to be repaired, shall be liable to a penalty of Ten Dollars for every twenty-four hours, during which their disregard of the provisions of this section, in any of the particulars aforesaid, shall continue.

All new Meters to be tested and stamped after three months notice from Inspector.

7. No Meter for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of Gas sold, shall be fixed for use after the expiration of three months after the period herein fixed for the acquisition by each Company of the stamped Gasholder, with balances indices, and testing apparatus as hereinbefore required, unless the same shall be stamped by the Inspector under the provisions of this Act, and every person who after the lapse of time aforesaid, shall fix or cause to be fixed for use any Gas Meter, before it has been so stamped, shall be liable to a penalty of Twenty Dollars for so doing: Provided always that in every case where any Meter so fixed for use without being so stamped, belongs to the Company, and is by them furnished for the use of the consumer, then, and in that case the Company furnishing such Meter, and not the Consumer, shall be subject to the penalty hereinbefore imposed.

8. After the expiration of ten years from the period hereby fixed for the acquisition by each Company of the stamped Gasholder, balances, indices and testing apparatus, as hereinbefore provided, all Meters whatever in use at the expiration of the said period, and not previously stamped, shall be examined, tested and stamped, if found correct under the provisions of this Act; and any person who shall after the time hereby fixed, knowingly use any Meter which has not been so stamped as aforesaid, shall, on conviction, forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty dollars; and it shall be lawful on such conviction to order such unstamped Meter to be seized and destroyed; Provided always that in every case where any Meter remaining unstamped contrary to the provisions of this section, shall be a Meter belonging to and furnished by the Company for the use of the consumer, then, and in that case, the Company shall be subject to the obligations and liable to the penalties hereby imposed, and not the consumer.

After exp  
tion of ten  
years all Me-  
ters in use to  
be stamped.

9. The following rules shall be observed in testing Meters under the provisions of this Act:

*Firstly*,—The Meter shall be tested for soundness or leakage only, and not for percentage of error, when fixed on a horizontal base, and with Gas under a pressure equal to a column of water three inches high, with a light or lights consuming not more than one twentieth part of its measuring capacity, per hour, marked thereon, nor less than one half of a cubic foot per hour for all Meters of a measuring capacity not exceeding one hundred cubic feet per hour, and not more than one fortieth part of its said measuring capacity per hour for all Meters of any greater measuring capacity per hour than one hundred cubic feet; and all Meters found to work under such test shall be deemed sound Meters—and any Meter found not to work under such test shall not be stamped.

Rules for test-  
ing Meters for  
soundness or  
leakage.

*Secondly*,—The Meter to be tested for percentage of error shall be fixed on a horizontal base, and shall be tested at a pressure equal to a column of water five-tenths of an inch high—and passing the quantity of Gas or atmospheric air per hour which shall be marked thereon as its measuring capacity per hour; and the water used in such testing, and the air of the room in which such testing shall be made, shall be as nearly as possible of the same temperature as the Gas or air passed through the Meter.

Rules for test-  
ing Meters for  
error.

10. No Meter shall be stamped which shall be found by the Inspector to register, or be capable of being made by any contrivance for that purpose, or by increase or by decrease of the water in such Meter, or by any other means practically prevented in good Meters, to register quantities varying from the true standard measure of Gas more than two per centum in favor of the seller, or three per centum in favor of the consumer; and every Meter, whether stamped or unstamped, which shall be found by such Inspector to register, or be capable of being made to register quantities varying beyond the limits aforesaid, shall be deemed incorrect within the meaning of this Act; and every Meter which shall be found by such Inspector to measure and register quantities accurately or not varying beyond the limits aforesaid, and shall be found incapable by any such means as aforesaid of being made to register quantities varying beyond the limits aforesaid, shall be considered to be correct, and be stamped as aforesaid in such manner, and on such part of the Meter as shall be specially directed by the authority appointing him, or in default of such direction as shall in his opinion best prevent fraud;

Variation to  
be allowed in  
registration  
of Meters.

2 per cent. in  
favor of seller,  
3 per cent. in  
favor of con-  
sumer.

Provided always that a Meter having a measuring capacity at one revolution or complete action of the Meter of not less than five cubic feet, and having permanently marked upon it in some conspicuous place the words "Without Float," shall be stamped by the Inspector, if found correct within the meaning of this Act in all other respects, except that it is capable of being made by abstraction of water to register incorrectly against the seller of Gas; but it shall not be lawful after the time aforesaid to use in the sale of Gas any such Meter when so stamped by the Inspector, except by written agreement between the buyer and seller specifying that this description of Meter shall be used.

Inspector of Meters to make a tour of Inspection through the Province every six months for inspection.

**11.**—It shall be the duty of the Inspector of Meters, within one month from the time hereby fixed for the acquisition by each Company of a stamped Gasholder with balances, indices and testing apparatus, and afterwards at intervals not exceeding six months, to commence a tour of inspection to every place in this Province where illuminating Gas is manufactured and sold: and to proceed with and complete such tour without delay; and at every such place such Inspector shall examine, test, and if found correct, stamp all such Meters as are under the provisions of this Act required to be so examined, tested and stamped; and shall deface and destroy the stamps on any Meter tested and found incorrect under the provisions of this Act, and he shall affix a number to every Meter so stamped; and shall also keep a book wherein he shall enter minutes of all such examinations and testings with the numbers so affixed—and the numbers of identity and capacity marked by the manufacturers on such Meters respectively; and shall give, if required, a certificate under his hand, of such stamping or defacing as the case may be; and at every place such Inspector shall give at least twenty-four hours notice of his intended departure therefrom, by one advertisement in some paper published at such place, if any there be; and, if not, by a notice openly posted up in some conspicuous and public place in such locality.

Notice of time for Inspection to be given in the newspapers.

Inspector may enter premises to inspect Meters between 10 and 4 in the day.

**12.** It shall be lawful for the Inspector of Meters at any hour between ten and four of the clock in the day, to enter any House, Shop or place whatsoever where any Meter, whether stamped or unstamped, shall be fixed or used, and to examine and test the same; and if necessary for such purpose, to cause the Company selling Gas to remove it, doing as little damage thereby as may be: Provided always, That he be first required to make such entry and examination by a requisition in writing made to him either by the Company or the consumer; and if upon such examination and testing it should be found that such Meter is incorrect within the meaning of this Act, or fraudulent, the same shall not be refixed or used again unless and until altered and repaired, so as to measure and register correctly and stamped; and the expense of such visit, examination, testing, removal and stamping shall be paid by the applicant, if such Meter be found correct; and if incorrect, by the other party to the contract.

Buyer of Gas to have the right to require Gas Company to inspect his Meter in his presence.

**13.** Every buyer of Gas by meter shall have the right at any time, and from time to time, to require the Company to cause such Meter to be examined and tested by their Foreman or other competent person in their employ, whether such Meter be stamped or unstamped; and such Company shall be bound to cause the same to be removed and to be tested and examined as aforesaid within a reasonable time from the reception of such requisition, and in the presence of the buyer, if he desire it; and if such Meter be found correct, then the expense of such

removal, testing and examination which shall not exceed one Dollar, shall be paid by such person to such Company; but, if it be found incorrect, the expense of the removal, testing and examination and correction thereof shall be borne by the owner thereof, and such Meter shall not be replaced or fixed for use, or used until properly corrected. But any such buyer of Gas may apply for an immediate re-inspection of such Meter by the Inspector of Meters in the manner hereinafter provided which shall be in the nature of an appeal—and subject to such order as to the cost thereof as may be made by the Inspector. And the Company, without any such requisition, may at any time order such removal, testing and examination to be made at their own expense, of any Meter, whether stamped or unstamped;—And for that purpose may, at any hour between ten o'clock A. M. and four o'clock P. M., enter the place wherein such Meter shall be fixed for use; and any person obstructing the authorized Agents of such Company from entering such place for such purpose, after being duly informed of their intention so to do, shall incur a penalty of five dollars.

Expense of such testing.

14. It shall be the duty of every Company, upon being required so to do in writing by any Consumer, to unfix, remove and transmit any Meter, whether stamped, or unstamped to the office of Inspector of Meters for the purpose of being examined, and tested, if stamped; and, if not, of being examined, tested and stamped; unless the period of the ordinary visit of the Inspector to the place where such Consumer resides, shall be within two months from such requisition; in which case such Meter shall await the arrival of the Inspector. Provided always that such Consumer deposit with such Company, with his requisition, a sufficient sum of money to cover the reasonable expense of such transmission; and the fee for such examination testing and stamping; and if such Meter be found to register the quantity of Gas consumed, to the prejudice of the Consumer, the sum of money so deposited shall be forthwith returned to such Consumer; and the expense of such transmission, examination, testing and stamping, and of the replacing of the said Meter shall be borne by such Company; And if such requisition for transmission and examination of any such Meter be in the nature of an appeal from an examination and testing previously made or caused to be made thereof by the Company, and if the decision of the Inspector be adverse to the Company, he shall have the right to order such Company to refund also any expenses paid them by the Consumer upon the previous examination and testing thereof. Provided always, that if any Meter required to be so removed and transmitted to the Inspector for examination, be the property of the Consumer, he shall be bound to bear all the expenses of such removal, transmission, testing examination, and stamping.

Gas Company when required by any consumer to send his Meter to Inspector's office for inspection. Or to await arrival of Inspector. Deposit to cover expense thereof to be left with Company.

15. In case any Inspector of Meters shall stamp any Meter without duly testing and finding the same correct, or shall refuse, or for three days after being so required under the provisions of this Act, neglect without lawful excuse to stamp any Meter found to be correct, on being so tested, or shall be guilty of a breach of any duty imposed upon him by this Act, or shall otherwise misconduct himself in the execution of his office, every such offender shall upon conviction forfeit a sum not exceeding Twenty Dollars for every such offence.

Penalty on Inspector for neglect of duty.

16. The fees for examining, testing and stamping Gasholders and Gas Meters shall be as follows,

Fees for inspection of Meters, proof-tanks, &c., &c.

Meters delivering a Cubic foot of Gas in four or more revolutions, or Meters from one to five lights inclusive.....	12c	
Meters delivering a Cubic foot of Gas by any less number of revolutions than four, or by one complete revolution ; or Meters from 6 to 20 lights inclusive.....	25c	5
Meters delivering more than a Cubic foot of Gas by one revolution—a further sum of 25c. for every Cubic foot of Gas delivered at one revolution, or Meters from 21 to 45 lights inclusive.....	50c	
And from 46 to 60 lights, inclusive.....	75c	10
And from 61 to 80 lights, inclusive.....	80c	
And from 81 to 100 lights, inclusive.....	\$1.00	
And for examining testing, and stamping Gasholders for Companies in the first instance, each.....	10.00	

And such fees shall be payable by the owners of such Meters or Gas-holders respectively, except in cases in which it is herein otherwise provided for.

**17.** Within one month from and after the passing of this Act, every Gas Company in this Province shall make respectively a return under oath, 20 to the Secretary of this Province, of the number of cubic feet of illuminating Gas by them respectively manufactured during the year ending on the 31st day of December last past. And shall, in the month of January of the next and of every subsequent year, make under oath similar returns to the Secretary of this Province, of the number of cubic 25 feet of illuminating Gas manufactured by them respectively during the year terminating on the thirty-first day of the month of December, in the year last previous to that in which they are hereby required to make such report.

**18.** From and after the passing of this Act, every Company shall pay 30 to the Receiver General an annual rate to be fixed by the Governor in Council, and not exceeding Five Dollars per million of cubic feet of Gas by them respectively manufactured and sold in each year, such rate to be paid half yearly on the first day of February and August in each year, to form a special fund for the purposes of this Act, to be called 35 the "Gas Inspection Fund ;" and all fees received by the Inspector, and all penalties recovered under this Act shall be paid to the Receiver General and form part of the said fund.

**19.** It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, upon a Petition to that effect from any Company manufacturing less than 1,000,000 of 40 cubic feet of Gas per annum, recommended by a majority in number of all purchasers of Gas by Meter from such Company, to exempt such Company from the obligation imposed by this Act of having a stamped Gasholder with balance, indices and testing apparatus, and from all provisions of this Act dependent upon the possession by such Company 45 of Gasholder and apparatus ; but all such purchasers of Gas shall be subject to the several provisions of this Act requiring Meters to be stamped ; and all persons buying and selling Gas by Meter in such lo-



cality shall be liable to all the penalties hereinafter affixed to the breach of any such provision, but the Inspector shall not be required to visit such locality.

**20.** Upon application in writing to any Company, from the owner 5 or occupier of any house or building erected, or premises situated in any street in which the mains of any such Company are laid, the Company shall supply and lay at their own expense, the necessary service pipes communicating from their main pipe to the side line dividing the street from such premises. But the expense of providing and laying such 10 service pipe from the line of the street, into such house or building, together with all expense for blasting in the street (should it be required), shall be paid to the Company by the applicant, and the Company shall furnish a supply of Gas to be used on such premises, together with one or more Meters as may be required: Provided always, that no such 15 Company shall be required to lay such service pipes at any period of the year when the ground in which such pipe is required to be laid shall be frozen, or if they have other lawful excuse for not doing so: Provided also, that no Gas Company shall be liable for accidents arising from the effect of Gas escapes, unless such accident shall be caused by the gross 20 neglect of the Company, or by reason of unskilful or defective work on the part of the Company or their servants in laying their pipes.

Gas Companies to furnish Gas when required.  
Proviso.

**21.** Any Company receiving an application in conformity with the next preceding section, may refuse to act upon the same until they shall have received from the applicant, good and sufficient security for the 25 payment of the price of the Gas to be supplied to him, and of the rent of the Meter to be furnished to him, and also of all such other sums of money as the Company may be entitled to demand under this Act, or under the special Act incorporating them, or until he shall at his option deposit with the said Company, a reasonable sum of money according to 30 the number of lights to be required, sufficient to secure such payments, and the price of such Gas, and the rent of such Meters for three months; such deposit, so far as regards the price of Gas and rent of Meters, to be renewed every three months, if so required by the Company.

Gas Company may demand security for the payment of Gas account, &c., and other expenses before laying service pipes.

**22.** The Municipal Corporation of any City or place in which Gas 35 is used, are hereby authorized on complaint made to them by at least twenty consumers of Gas, that the Gas supplied is impure or injurious to health after ignition, to appoint jointly with the said Company, a chemical referee, who shall examine and report to the Corporation, and the said Company upon such complaint, and if such complaint shall 40 prove unfounded, the complainant shall pay all expenses incidental thereto; and if the complaint shall be well founded, the Company furnishing the Gas shall pay such expenses, and shall be bound within five days to cause such impurities to be removed; in default of which, they shall incur a penalty of twenty dollars for every day such impurities 45 shall afterwards continue (unless such impurities be caused by mere inevitable accident,) or unless such Company shall have other lawful excuse for the occurrence thereof.

Upon complaint of 20 consumers, Municipal Council to have power to have Gas examined by chemical referee.

**23.** Any person giving up possession of any house or premises in which gas is used, and any person entering into possession of such house 50 and premises shall respectively forthwith give notice thereof to the Company supplying the gas, and in default of both of them so doing, the person leaving and the person entering into possession, shall each be liable for the payment of the price of all the gas consumed on such pre-

Parties giving up and parties taking possession of premises without notifying the Gas Company are held liable for

all Gas consumed since last indication of Meter. mises subsequent to the last payment made to such Company by any occupant of such premises, and any security therefor given by the occupants, or either of them shall remain affected for the whole of such payments.

Penalty for breaking or injuring pipes, posts, &c., &c.

**24.** Any person who shall maliciously break or injure any of the lamps, pipes, or other property belonging to any Company, shall on conviction thereof, incur a penalty not exceeding Twenty Dollars, or be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding sixty days. 5

Penalties may be recovered before two Justices of the Peace, or Inspector of Police.

**25.** All penalties imposed by this Act may be recovered on the information of any person whomsoever, before any two Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in the locality where such penalty shall be incurred, or before any Superintendent or Inspector of Police, or any Recorder or Police Magistrate; and such informer shall be a competent witness in support of such information. 10

Appeal from decision of Police Court or other Court.

**26.** All persons who may think themselves aggrieved by any act or decision of any Inspector of Meters, or by any order, judgment or determination of any Inspector or Superintendent of police or other Magistrate, Justice or Justices of the Peace, Recorder or Police Magistrate, relating to any matter or thing in this Act mentioned or contained, may appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions or Recorder's Court at the next following Session or sittings thereof, if such Session or sittings commence more than eight days after the date of the act complained of or order or decision appealed from; and if such Session or sittings commence at an earlier period, then, at the next subsequent Session or sittings of the same Court to be held in or for the City, County, or District within which the cause of appeal shall have arisen, first giving seven days notice in writing to the adverse party of such intention to appeal, and of the grounds or nature thereof; and on the day of the presentation of the Petition hereinafter mentioned, and forthwith after such notice, such appellant shall enter into a recognizance before some Justice of the Peace, Recorder or other Magistrate as aforesaid, with two sufficient sureties who shall justify to their sufficiency, conditioned to try such appeal and abide the order and award of the said Court thereon; and such appeal may be brought before such Court by a summary Petition accompanied by the original of such notice and by proof of service thereof upon the opposite party: and such Court shall have power to hear evidence upon such appeal and to make such other order thereon as such Court may think proper. 15 20 25 30 35

Proceedings not to be quashed for want of form.

**27.** No proceeding to be had or taken in pursuance of this Act shall be quashed or vacated for want of form, or removed by certiorari, or by any other writ or proceeding whatever into any of Her Majesty's Courts of record in this Province or elsewhere, any law or Statute, to the contrary notwithstanding. 40

Actions shall be brought within the County within which the cause of action shall have arisen, and Defendant may plead general issue, and give special matter in evidence.

**28.** In all actions brought against any person for anything done in pursuance of this Act, or in the execution of the powers or authorities thereof, such action should be laid and brought in the district or county within which the cause of action shall have arisen, and the defendant or defendants in such action may plead the general issue and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon, and that the acts were done in pursuance or by authority of this Act; and if they shall appear to have been so done, or that such action shall have been brought otherwise than as hereinbefore directed, then, and in every such case, judgment shall be given for the defendant, or where the case 45 50

is tried by a jury, such jury shall find for the defendants; upon which judgment or verdict, or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuited, or shall suffer a discontinuance of his or their action after the defendant or defendants shall have appeared thereto, or if judgment be rendered, or a verdict shall pass against the plaintiff or plaintiffs therein, or if upon the demurrer or otherwise, judgment shall be given against the plaintiff or plaintiffs, the defendant or defendants shall have his, her, or their costs, and shall have such remedy for recovering the same as defendants have for recovering costs of suit by law in any other cases.

**29.** No plaintiff shall recover in any action for any irregularity, trespass or other wrongful proceeding, made or committed in the execution of this Act, if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made by or on behalf of the party or parties who shall commit such irregularity, trespass or other wrongful proceeding before such action brought; and, in case no tender shall have been made, it shall be lawful for the defendant or defendants in any such action, by leave of the Court wherein such action shall depend, at any time before issue joined, to pay into Court such sum or sums of money as he, she, or they shall think fit; whereupon proceedings, order and adjudication shall be had and made in and by such Court as in other actions where defendants are allowed to pay money into Court.

**30.** No gas company shall be bound to see to the execution of any trust, whether express, implied, or constructive, to which any of the shares therein may be subject, and the receipt of the party in whose name any share or shares shall stand in the books of such gas company, or, if in the names of more parties than one, the receipt of one of the parties, shall from time to time be a sufficient discharge to such gas company for any dividend or other sum of money payable in respect of such share or shares, notwithstanding any trust to which such share or shares may then be subject, and whether or not the company have had notice of such trust, and the company shall not be bound to see to the application of the money paid upon such receipt, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

**31.** This Act shall not affect the rights of any gas company under existing Acts of Incorporation, except in so far only as its provisions are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Defendant may tender amends.

Gas Companies not bound to see to the execution of any trust or application of trust monies invested in shares.

This Act shall not affect existing rights.