



CHAPTER 4

An Act to facilitate communication between the principal commercial centres of the Province and the North Shore, the Gaspé Peninsula and the Magdalen Islands; to subject to regulations the subsidies to certain transportation companies and to remedy unemployment

[Assented to, the 20th of May, 1937]

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to establish Preamble.
and facilitate rapid communication between the chief commercial centres of the Province and distant points on the shore of the Lower St. Lawrence:

- a. on account of the isolation of the population;
- b. to assure fishermen, farmers and settlers outlets for their products;
- c. to allow all parts of the Province to derive every possible benefit from the development of our natural resources;

Whereas the Government of this Province has for a number of years subsidized three companies operating a boat service for the conveyance of passengers and freight in the Lower St. Lawrence and it has become necessary to more effectively regulate the granting of such subsidies;

Whereas the Magdalen Islands, to the disadvantage of their population, have never been connected with the Province by a direct line of navigation and this situation should be immediately remedied;

Whereas it is desirable to impose upon the companies receiving subsidies the obligation to build new boats for the comfort and safety of travellers, to provide

sufficient means of transportation to meet all legitimate needs and to furnish work for the shipyards of the Province;

Whereas the building of such boats would contribute to greatly lessen unemployment in the Province and in the Quebec region particularly;

Therefore, His Majesty, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts, as follows:

- Paying of Government subsidies to: **1.** The Government of the Province is authorized to pay during a period of ten years, to be computed from the 1st of July, 1937, —
- Compagnie de Transport du Bas St-Laurent;* a. to the *Compagnie de Transport du Bas St-Laurent*, an annual subsidy of fifty thousand dollars to keep in operation, during the annual period of navigation, a transportation service, twice a week, for travellers and merchandise between Rimouski and the region of la Pointe-aux-Outardes, between Rimouski and the region extending from Baie Comeau to Baie de Trinité, and between Matane, Baie Comeau and Sept-Iles, provided the company builds a new boat costing at least two hundred thousand dollars in the shipyards of the Province;
- Proviso;
- Clarke Steamship Co., Ltd.; b. to The Clarke Steamship Co., Ltd., an annual subsidy of forty thousand dollars to keep in operation, during the annual period of navigation, a weekly transportation service for travellers and merchandise between Montreal, Quebec and Gaspé and intervening points along the Gaspé coast, and to extend such service as far as the Magdalen Islands every fifteen days, provided the company builds a boat costing at least two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the shipyards of the Province;
- Proviso;
- Clarke Steamship Co., Ltd.; c. to The Clarke Steamship Co., Ltd., an annual subsidy of twenty-five thousand dollars to keep in operation, during the annual season of navigation, a weekly transportation service for travellers and merchandise between Quebec and Natashquan and to extend such service from Natashquan to Blanc Sablon every fifteen days;
- Compagnie de Traverse de Rivière-du-Loup-Tadoussac;* d. to the *Compagnie de Traverse de Rivière-du-Loup-Tadoussac, Limitée*, an annual subsidy of twelve thousand dollars to keep in operation, during the tourist season, a transportation service for travellers twice a

day, except Sunday, between Rivière-du-Loup and Saint-Siméon and Tadoussac, provided the company builds a boat costing at least two hundred thousand dollars in the shipyards of the Province. Proviso.

The subsidies mentioned in this section include the items voted in the budget submitted to the Legislative Assembly at this Session. To be included in subsidies.

The contract which the Minister of Mines and Fisheries is authorized to enter into for the carrying out of this act replaces all other contracts, which are accordingly cancelled. Contracts replaced.

The payment of such subsidies shall be subject to the accomplishment of all the conditions imposed under this act. Payment.

2. The building of such new boats must be undertaken at once in the shipyards of the Province, in order that they be placed in service not later than the opening of navigation in the Spring of 1938. Delay for building of boats.

3. The companies mentioned in section 1 must, in the yards building such boats, and in the course of their operation, establish and maintain fair labour conditions and pay reasonable wages to the satisfaction of the Minister of Mines and Fisheries. Labour, etc., conditions.

4. The crew employed on the boats to be put into service by such companies, on the river St. Lawrence, must consist of seamen domiciled in the Province of Quebec. Crew.

5. The places of call of such boats shall be designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council according to the needs of the population and requirements of economic activities. Places of call.

6. The boats placed in operation by the companies mentioned in section 1, except that of the *Compagnie de Traverse de Rivière-du-Loup—Tadoussac, Limitée*, must be provided with cold-storage installations suitable for the conveyance of fish under the best possible conditions. Cold storage installations.

7. Every company receiving a subsidy under this act must, every year, at the opening of navigation, furnish to the Minister of Mines and Fisheries, the Furnishing, etc., of tariff of cost of transportation.

tariff of the cost of transportation for passengers and merchandise fixed by the Department of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion of Canada, and such tariff may be amended by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Entering into certain contract authorized.

8. The Minister of Mines and Fisheries is authorized to enter into a contract with the companies contemplated in section 1, for the payment of the subsidies provided for by this act, on such conditions as he may determine, and he may, from time to time, fix a special tariff for the transportation, on the boats of such companies, of *bona fide* lumbermen, settlers and fishermen.

Free transportation.

Missionaries shall be entitled to free transportation on such boats.

How subsidies paid.

9. The subsidies contemplated under section 1 shall be paid, on the recommendation of the Minister of Mines and Fisheries, out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Loans optional.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, however, enact the entire or part payment of such subsidies by means of loans for a period not exceeding thirty years and bearing interest at rates not exceeding four per cent per annum.

Coming into force.

11. This act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.