



CHAPTER 35

An Act to promote colonization and the return to the land

[Assented to, the 2nd of May, 1935]

WHEREAS colonization and return to the land must be considered as national undertakings for the success of which it is important to strive; Preamble.

Whereas colonization and the return to the land afford an efficacious solution of a permanent nature for the problems arising from unemployment;

Whereas there are, in the country, many farmers' sons who wish to settle on the land but, to do so, cannot rely upon paternal assistance or can only rely thereon to an insufficient extent;

Whereas there are also as many young men, who, though not sons of farmers, have the requisite qualities for successfully settling on the land, but who have not the necessary means to do so;

Whereas there are farmers who, affected by the financial depression and forced to abandon their farms, would return to their occupation if supplied with the means therefor;

Whereas between the number of the urban population and that of the rural population there is a disparity which should be rectified, and colonization and return to the land afford a practical means of reëstablishing a desirable equilibrium;

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

1. This act may be cited as *Colonization Promoting and Return to the Land Act*. Short title.

Appropriation for promoting colonization.

2. A sum of ten million dollars is appropriated to promote colonization and the return to the land, and especially for the purposes contemplated in the following sections 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Regulations for:

3. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Colonization, may, from time to time, adopt, amend or repeal regulations:

Granting subsidies.

1. To grant subsidies, on such conditions and for such sums as he may determine, to:

a. Diocesan colonization societies or any organizations actively engaged in colonization or the return to the land movement;

b. Farmers who establish their sons, sons-in-law or adopted children on free land, that is to say land not then used, wholly or partly, in farming or which may be used for the creation of new agricultural establishments, provided that the subsidy in such case shall not exceed three hundred dollars and be paid in three equal annual instalments;

c. British subjects who wish to settle on such free land, if they are deemed fit to do so; the maximum subsidy in such case to be the same as in the preceding case and to be paid in the same manner;

d. Settlers starting, to assist them in the construction of a house and stable, provided that the subsidy in each individual case does not exceed one hundred dollars, and first year settlers for preparing the first five acres of their lot, taking into account the number of dependents, without prejudice to the ordinary clearing and plowing premium which such settlers may have earned;

e. Any bachelor who wishes to work in aiding any farmer who is willing to receive and employ him.

Effecting loans.

2. To effect a loan, for the purchase of rolling-stock, to any person who has received a subsidy under sub-paragraph *c* of paragraph 1 of this section, and who cannot rely upon assistance from his relatives to obtain the necessary animals and farm implements for his operations, provided that the loan does not exceed five hundred dollars and be not over two-thirds of the cost of the rolling-stock.

How loan repayable.

Such loan shall be repayable by yearly instalments of one hundred dollars, the first instalment becoming due at the beginning of the fourth year of the loan, and the said loan shall not bear interest save from the maturity date of the repayments.

3. To improve and develop the regions where colonists have settled or may settle, by the construction of highways or of local roads and of bridges, or by the drying or draining of certain territories, including lands held in common (*communes*), savanna and marshy lands, or by the acquisition, the exchange or otherwise of lands deemed necessary for such purposes. Improve-
ment works.

4. To aid, encourage and maintain the settlers or already-existing colonist settlements, and meet the immediate needs of such settlers by supplementing, in any form whatsoever and under whatever conditions determined, the subsidies and premiums which have already been paid to them. Supplemen-
tary aid, etc.

5. To pay the legitimate transportation costs of the settlers, their families, rolling-stock and household effects, whenever it is established that such settlers cannot themselves pay such expenses. Paying
transporta-
tion costs.

6. To create colonization centres by establishing settlers in groups and, for such purpose, in addition to the subsidies or premiums which may be paid to each settler, expend any sums required for the purchase of the lumber necessary for construction purposes, of material, horses or other animals, of machinery or instruments for public works. Creating
colonization
centres.

7. To construct or improve schools, chapel-schools, and houses and dwellings for the colonization priests or missionaries, and to help any school or religious organization. Construct-
ing schools,
etc.

8. To give grain seed to settlers who have neither the means nor the credit to procure same and to grant gardening premiums to the wives of settlers to reward them for their work and industry. Giving grain
seed, etc.

9. To direct the efforts and initiative of the settlers, by securing for them the services of any agronomist or specialist and, if necessary, to organize a special service of agronomy adapted to the needs of the new and old regions. Directing
efforts, etc.

10. To grant premiums for the erection of mills in the old and new settlements wherever he may deem expedient in the interest of the settlers, and to promote small industries. Granting
premiums.

11. To divide colonization regions into districts for administrative purposes and to establish offices to facilitate transactions between those who desire to settle on lands now free, and those, on the other hand, who own such lands and would be disposed to sell them on terms. Dividing
regions.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may also authorize the Minister of Colonization: Authoriza-
tion of Min-
ister for:

- Acquiring of land, etc; 1. To acquire, by exchange or otherwise, any land or territory, if such acquisition be deemed necessary to promote colonization and the return to the land, and to proceed with the sale of such lands so acquired or any part thereof, on such terms and conditions as may be deemed advantageous and just;
- Disposing of free land; 2. To negotiate with the owners of free land, within the meaning of sub-paragraph *b* of paragraph 1 of section 3, to help them to dispose of their land to any other persons who are within the conditions required by this act to obtain subsidies or loans;
- Entering into covenants, etc.; 3. To enter into any covenant or arrangement with the Dominion Government or with any municipal corporation of this Province, or with both, for the purpose of promoting the interests of colonization and the return to the land;
- Carrying out works; 4. To have carried out any works of surveying and classification of the lands now under his control or which may so be hereafter;
- Idem. 5. To have carried out any work deemed necessary or advantageous in the public interest to aid and ensure the expansion and success of colonization and the return to the land.
- Expenses to be taken from appropriation. 5. From and out of the sum provided in section 2, there may be paid, in whole or in part, all expenses resulting generally from any acts respecting colonization and the return to the land, and all subsidies or premiums, other than clearing and ploughing premiums, which may be granted, as well as the expenditure deemed necessary to carry out any contract or transaction and any undertaking resulting from such acts, and, generally, to execute whatever may be necessary or advantageous in the public interest to aid or ensure the expansion or success of colonization and the return to the land.
- Inalienability of subsidies, etc. 6. All subsidies, premiums or yearly or special allowances, paid under this act, shall be inalienable and unseizable.
- Appointing of staff. 7. The staff deemed necessary for the proper working of this act may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Act (Revised Statutes, 1925, chapter 10) or of the Outside Service Act (Revised Statutes, 1925, chapter 10A), as the case may be.
- Paying of sums. 8. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may authorize the Provincial Treasurer to advance or pay, out of the

consolidated revenue fund, on certificates of the Minister of Colonization, the sums which the Government of the Province is authorized to expend under this act.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, if he deem it expedient for the purpose of paying all or part of the sums required or of reimbursing any advances made, up to the amount of ten million dollars mentioned in section 2 of this act, also authorize the Provincial Treasurer to contract a loan or loans by means of bonds or inscribed stock issued on the credit of the Province. Loans authorized therefor.

Such bonds or inscribed stock shall be issued at such rate of interest, for the term, in the form and for the amount which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may determine, and shall be payable, in interest and principal, at the time and places which he may indicate. Bonds, etc.

9. The Minister of Colonization is charged with the carrying out of this act. Carrying out of act.

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