



CHAPTER 10

An Act to provide for the creation of a Royal Commission to inquire into the circumstances of the burning of the "Laurier Palace" theatre, and certain other matters of public interest

[Assented to, the 1st of April, 1927]

WHEREAS fire partly destroyed the theatre called *Preamble*.
"Laurier Palace", in the city of Montreal, on the 9th of January, 1927, and caused the death of seventy-eight children;

Whereas public opinion was rightly aroused by this terrible accident and demands the appointment of a Royal Commission to ascertain the causes of the disaster, fix the responsibilities and seek means to prevent a repetition in the future;

Whereas it is expedient to inquire into these matters and particularly the dangers incident to the admission of children in theatres and public halls, whether they be accompanied or not by their parents or guardians;

Whereas public opinion seems to be divided on this latter point as well as on that of prohibiting shows of any nature on Sunday;

Whereas chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes, 1925, respecting inquiries as to public matters, does not permit of extending the jurisdiction of a Royal Commission to all of such objects, and it is therefore expedient to authorize the forming of a Royal Commission to inquire into same;

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

1. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the matters mentioned in the preamble to this act, as well as all other matters which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may be pleased to submit to it. *Appointment of commission.*

Objects of inquiry.

2. Without restricting the general scope of the above terms, the Commission shall make special inquiry into:

1. The causes of the "Laurier Palace" theatre fire and accident;

2. The responsibilities incurred by the persons connected with the theatre, by the provincial and municipal authorities, by the public officers and by the parents of the children;

3. The safety conditions of theatres and public halls;

4. Conditions of admittance to theatres and public halls, particularly as to children;

5. Prohibition of shows on Sunday;

6. The wish of the citizens generally as well as of the working classes on the subjects mentioned in sub-paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

7. The sufficiency of the present provincial and municipal laws which provide for the safety and protection of the public in theatres and public halls and for the admittance of children to theatres;

8. The manner in which such laws have been carried out in the past, both by the provincial and the municipal authorities.

One commissioner.

3. The Commission shall be composed of one commissioner.

Sittings.

4. The Commission shall first sit in Montreal, and may, if it deem it necessary, sit at any place in the Province.

Mode of inquiry.

5. The Commission may inquire into the above matters in any way it may deem just and equitable, but the employment of advocates and stenographers shall not be obligatory.

No writ, etc., to hinder.

6. No writ of injunction or prohibition nor any other legal proceeding whatsoever shall hinder or stop the proceedings of the commissioner, or of the Commission or its employees.

Provisions applicable.

7. The provisions of chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes, 1925, (Public Inquiry Commission Act), not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Commission authorized by this act.

Expenses.

8. The expenses incurred for the carrying out of this act shall be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund of the Province.

Coming into force.

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