

CHAP. 71

An Act to incorporate the Grand'Mère Bridge Company, and to authorize it to build a toll-bridge over the river St. Maurice between the village of Grand'Mère and the parish of St. Théophile du Lac

[Assented to 28th March, 1901]

Preamble.

WHEREAS the persons hereinafter named have, by their petition, represented :

That the building of a toll-bridge over the River St. Maurice between the village of Grand'Mère and the parish of St. Théophile du Lac, in the county of Champlain, would greatly contribute to promote the welfare, trade and progress of the county generally, and would greatly facilitate the intercourse between the municipalities of the counties of Champlain and St. Maurice ;

Whereas they have prayed to be authorized to build such a bridge over the River St. Maurice at the place called Grand'Mère, between the village of Grand'Mère and the parish of St. Théophile du Lac, and it is expedient to grant their prayer ;

Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows :

Persons incorporated.

1. Aimé Levasseur, farmer, of St. Maurice ; Clovis Deguise, manufacturer, and Ernest Deguise, merchant, of the parish of Ste. Geneviève de Batiscan, in the county of Champlain, and all other persons who may become shareholders of the said company, are hereby incorporated under the name of "The Grand'Mère Bridge Company".

Name.

Capital stock.
Shares.

The capital stock of the company shall be fifty thousand dollars, divided into five hundred shares of one hundred dollars each.

Authority given to build bridge over St. Maurice at certain place, &c.

2. The company is authorized to construct, erect and maintain a wooden or iron toll-bridge over the St. Maurice river at the place called Grand'Mère, between the village of Grand'Mère and the parish of St. Théophile du Lac, about five arpents above the Grand'Mère Falls, at or near the place of the present ferry, to build a toll-house, a toll-gate and other dependencies, and to acquire and possess the necessary land for the abutments of the bridge, on either side of the River St. Maurice and for the toll collector's house.

3. The company and its legal representatives shall have all the necessary powers for securing the construction and maintenance of the bridge and for rebuilding the same, if necessary, and for the proper administration of the company.

Powers for such purpose.

4. The chief place of business of the company shall be in the village of Grand'Mère.

Chief place of business.

5. The persons constituting the company shall have the right to associate others with themselves, and to sell or transfer the rights and privileges they possess under this act.

Power to associate others and sell, &c., rights under act.

6. The company shall keep the bridge in good order, fit for the passage of foot-passengers, vehicles and cattle.

Bridge to be kept in good order, &c.

The bridge shall be inspected by the engineer of the provincial government, who shall have power to order the necessary repairs in the interest and for the safety of the public; and, if such repairs are not made within the prescribed delay, the said engineer may close the bridge.

Inspection of bridge by government engineer.

Closing of bridge if not repaired.

7. When the bridge shall have been approved by the government engineer and he shall have reported that the bridge is fit and suitable for the passage of foot-passengers, vehicles and cattle, and after public notice thereof shall have been given by the said engineer by causing the notice to be read at the door of the churches of Grand'Mère village and of St. Théophile du Lac; on Sunday after divine service, it shall be lawful for the company to exact and levy for its own use and benefit, before allowing any passage over the said bridge, the following tolls to wit :

When bridge is approved and reported fit and notice given, tolls may be exacted.

Tariff.

For every vehicle drawn by one horse, for a single passage	\$0 15
Going and returning on the same day.....	0 20
for not more than four persons and five cents for every additional person..	
For every vehicle drawn by two horses, or other animals.....	0 25
Going and returning.....	0 40
For every additional horse or other animal.....	0 10
For every horse or other animal with its rider, one way.....	0 10
For every horse, mule, cow or head of heavy cattle one way.....	0 10
For every sheep, calf, pig, one way.....	0 05

For every foot-passenger, one way..... 0 05

But the said company shall be obliged to sell and deliver twelve passage tickets for twenty-five cents.

For every bicycle and its rider, one way..... 0 05

For every vehicle drawn by one horse or other animal, weight allowed : 2,000 lbs, and ten cents for every additional thousand pounds or fraction thereof.

For every vehicle drawn by two horses or other draft animals, weight allowed : 4,000 lbs, and ten cents for every additional thousand pounds or fraction thereof.

Penalty for
forcibly pas-
sing gate, &c.

8. Every person forcibly passing through the said gate or on or over the bridge without paying the tolls, or otherwise evading the payment of such tolls, or driving horses, oxen or horned or other cattle at a faster pace than a walk, shall for each offence incur a penalty not exceeding five dollars.

Ferry abol-
ished when
bridge open
for traffic.

9. As soon as the bridge shall be built and open to the public, the present ferry over the river St. Maurice, opposite the village of Grand'Mère, shall be abolished, and no person, company or corporation shall build a toll-bridge or bridges nor have or keep a ferry for tolls ; and every person or persons who shall build a toll-bridge or bridges or keep or cause to be kept a ferry for tolls over the river St. Maurice, within the limits hereinafter mentioned, shall pay to the company three times the amount of the tolls imposed by this act for the persons, vehicles and cattle passing over such bridge or carried over by such ferry ; and all persons, companies and corporations guilty of infringement of the present section shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for every person, vehicle or animal that has so crossed.

Proviso.

This provision shall not, however, apply to the person or persons now operating any of the ferries within the said limits hereinafter mentioned, until after the company incorporated by this act shall have paid him or them an indemnity to be fixed by arbitrators, one of whom shall be named by the company, another by the proprietor or proprietors of the ferry or ferries, and in case of disagreement between the two arbitrators a third shall be appointed by a judge of the Superior Court for the district of Three Rivers. Such arbitration shall be had according to the rules contained in the Code of Civil Procedure.

10. The exclusive privileges granted by this act shall be for a period of fifty years, and the said privileges shall extend for two miles on either side of the bridge built by the company; and every person or company accepting tolls within the limits above mentioned shall pay to the company hereby incorporated three times the amount of the tolls mentioned in section 7 for every person, vehicle, animal or article so crossed over or to be crossed over, contrary to this section.

Duration of
privileges
granted, &c.

Penalty for
infringe-
ments.

11. The corporations of the village of Grand'Mère and of the parish of Lac à la Tortue shall in no wise be responsible for accidents or damages that may occur to persons, vehicles or animals crossing the projected bridge.

Certain cor-
porations not
liable for ac-
cidents on
bridge, &c.

12. After the said bridge has been built, inspected and received by the provincial government engineer, the corporation of the village of Grand'Mère shall have power at any time to purchase the said bridge and the privileges of the said company, on paying to the latter the price of the construction of the said bridge, with, in addition, the sum of twenty per cent. over such cost of construction.

Power of
village of
Grand'Mère
to acquire
bridge on
paying cer-
tain price.

13. All suits for infringement of this act may be taken before the Circuit Court of the district of Three Rivers or before the district magistrate of the same district.

Suits, where
to be taken.

14. The said Aimé Levasseur, Clovis DeGuise and Ernest DeGuise shall be the first directors of the said company, and the provisions of the joint stock companies' general clauses act shall apply to this act.

First direct-
ors and law
applicable to
act.

15. The said bridge shall be built and completed during the course of two years from the coming into force of this act, under penalty of the forfeiture of the present charter.

When bridge
to be built and
completed. Forfeiture of
charter if not
so built.

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

Coming into
force.