

CHAPTER CXVII.

An ACT to authorise Alexander M^cIntire to erect a toll bridge over French Creek.

Section 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns, to erect, build, maintain and support a good and substantial bridge over and across French creek, on the line of direction where a road laid out from the Block-house, in the town of Meadville, to the outlet of the Conneaut lake crosses the same, in Crawford county; and the property of said bridge, when built, shall be and the same is hereby vested in the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns, may demand and receive toll from travellers and others, not exceeding the following rates, *to wit*: For every coach, landau, chariot, phaeton or other pleasurable carriage, ten cents for each horse drawing the same; for every waggon or cart, eight cents for each horse drawing the same; for every empty waggon or cart, five cents for each horse drawing the same; for every sleigh or sled, five cents for each horse drawing the same; for a single horse and rider, five cents; for every horse, four cents; for every foot passenger, one cent; for every head of horned cattle, two cents; for sheep or swine, at the rate of half a cent each; and all carriages which shall be drawn by oxen, or partly by oxen and partly horses, two oxen shall be estimated as equal to one horse: *Provided always, nevertheless,* That nothing

A. M^cIntire authorized to erect and maintain a bridge across French creek, in Crawford county.

The property of said bridge, when built, vested in said M^cIntire, with a right to receive toll.

Rates of toll.

thing in this act contained shall extend to authorise the said Alexander M^cIntire, or any other person, to erect a bridge in the manner in this act before mentioned, on any private property, without the consent of the owner thereof, or to erect the same in such a manner as in any way to interfere with, injure or obstruct the navigation of the said creek, or the passage over the ford across the same, near where the said bridge may be erected: *And provided*, That previously to the erection of said bridge the court of quarter sessions and grand jury of Crawford county, shall approve thereof.

Limitation of time for commencing and finishing the bridge.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns, shall not proceed to carry on the said work within one year after the passing of this act, or not within three years complete the same, according to the true intent and meaning of this act; or if at any time after the said bridge is completed, it is suffered to be out of repair, so as to be impassable for horses and waggons, for the space of twelve months, then and in either of those cases all and singular the rights, liberties, privileges and franchises hereby granted to the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns, shall revert to this commonwealth.

Proceedings in case the bridge is not kept in repair.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs and assigns, shall neglect to keep the said bridge in good and perfect order and repair, for the space of five days, and information thereof shall be given to any justice of the peace of the county, such justice shall issue his precept, directed to any constable, commanding

commanding him to summon three judicious freeholders, to meet at a certain time in the said precept to be mentioned, at the said bridge — of which said meeting notice shall be given to the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns, and the said justice shall, at such time and place, by the oaths or affirmations of the said freeholders, enquire whether the said bridge is in good and perfect order and repair as aforesaid; and if the said bridge shall be found by the said inquisition not to be in good order and repair, according to the true intent and meaning of this act, he shall certify the same, and send a copy of the inquisition to the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns, and from thenceforth the said tolls hereby granted shall cease to be demanded, paid or collected, until the defective part or parts of the said bridge shall be put in good and perfect order and repair.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That whenever the court of quarter sessions and grand jury, in concurrence with the commissioners of said county, shall think proper that the said bridge should become free, then the commissioners of the said county, together with the court, shall choose four judicious persons, three of whom shall be chosen by the commissioners, and one by the court, together with three other such persons, to be chosen by the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns; and the persons so chosen as aforesaid, shall proceed to estimate the value of the said bridge, and the sum agreed on by a majority of them shall be reported to the next court of quarter sessions; and if the court approve the same, the said commissioners shall draw a warrant in favor of the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns, on the treasury of

In case the county of Crawford should determine to purchase the bridge; how its value is to be estimated.

of said county, for the amount of the said sum, and on payment or tender thereof, the said bridge shall be free; but if the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns, shall at any time, on reasonable notice, refuse or neglect to choose three persons, in the manner herein-before mentioned, the said commissioners may proceed with the persons by them and the court so appointed, *ex parte*, in making the valuation, and the same proceedings shall be thereupon had as if the said Alexander M^cIntire, his heirs or assigns, had chosen three persons in the manner herein-before mentioned.

What persons shall pass the bridge toll free.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all persons attending divine worship on Sabbath days, or funerals, at any time, shall have liberty to pass and repass over said bridge, toll free; and also all paupers shall have liberty to pass and repass the said bridge toll free.

SIMON SNYDER, *Speaker*

of the House of Representatives.

ROBERT WHITEHILL, *Speaker*

of the Senate.

APPROVED—the third day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four.

THOMAS M^cKEAN, *Governor*

of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.