

## CHAPTER CXLIV.

*An ACT to provide for the erection of a House for the employment and support of the poor, in the county of Montgomery.*

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 as soon as the debts now owing and due by the county of Montgomery shall have been paid, and the bridges which have been adjudged by viewers legally appointed for that purpose, necessary for the accommodation of the public shall have been erected, it shall be in the power of the commissioners of the said county, with the consent and approbation of the court of quarter sessions and grand jury of the same county, to direct that a house for the employment and support of the poor \* be erected therein.

When a house for the employment and support of the poor of Montgomery county, is to be erected :

of which the commissioners are to give notice.

Persons to be chosen to fix on a site for the building.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That as soon as the said commissioners with the consent of the said court and grand jury, shall have directed the said house to be erected, they shall give notice of such determination to the sheriff of their county, who thereupon shall give notice by public advertisements, that the electors of the said county of Montgomery, shall at the general election next ensuing, and in the manner prescribed for the election of members of the House of Representatives of this commonwealth, elect seven reputable citizens of the said county, who, or a majority of them shall be, on or before the first day of May next after their election, to determine

mine upon and fix the place on which the said buildings shall be erected, and shall certify their proceedings therein, under their hands and seals, to the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the county of Montgomery, to be filed in his office; and the said electors shall also elect three reputable citizens of the said county, in like manner, to be directors of the poor, and of the house of employment for the county of Montgomery, for the ensuing year; and the judges of election of the said county shall immediately on receiving the returns from the several election districts, and casting up the number of votes therein, or within three days thereafter, certify under their hands and seals the names of the persons so elected, to fix on a proper scite for the said building, and the names of the directors so chosen to the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the said county, who shall file the said certificate in his office, and forthwith give notice in writing to the said persons and directors, of their being elected; and the said directors shall meet at the court-house, in the said county, on the first Monday in November next ensuing their election, and divide themselves by lot into three classes, the place of the first to be vacated at the expiration of the first year, of the second at the expiration of the second year, and of the third at the expiration of the third year; so that those who shall be chosen after the first election, and in the mode above prescribed, may serve for three years; and one-third be chosen annually: *Provided always, and be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the said seven citizens, or a majority of them, to receive proposals for the sale of lands whereon to erect the said buildings, and accommodate the same, and to contract for and hold the same, and take

Directors of  
poor to be  
elected.

Certificate of  
the election.

Meeting of the  
directors and  
rotation of ser-  
vice.

conveyances therefor, in the name of and for the use of the said corporation.

Directors to take an oath of office, &c.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That each director elected in manner aforesaid, or appointed as is directed by the twelfth section of this act, shall, within ten days after he is notified of such election or appointment, and before he enters on the duties of the said office, take an oath or affirmation, which any justice of the peace of the said county is hereby authorized to administer, that he will discharge the office of director of the poor for the said county, truly, faithfully and impartially, to the best of his knowledge and ability; and in case of neglect or refusal to take the said oath or affirmation within the time aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars, for the use of the poor of the said county; which fine shall be recovered by the directors, for the time being, as debts of equal amount are or shall be by law recoverable.

The directors incorporated:

Style of the corporation,

its immunities, powers and duties.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said directors shall forever hereafter, in name and in fact, be one body politic and corporate in law, to all intents and purposes whatsoever, relating to the poor of the county of Montgomery, and shall have perpetual succession, and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, by the name, style and title of "The Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment for the county of Montgomery," and by that name shall and may receive, take and hold any lands, tenements and hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly value of ten thousand dollars; and any goods and chattels whatsoever, of the gift, alienation or bequest of any person or persons whomsoever, to purchase,

chafe, take and hold any lands and tenements within their county, in fee-simple or otherwise, and erect suitable buildings thereon, for the reception, use and accommodation of the poor of their county, to provide all things necessary for the reception, lodging, maintenance and employment of the said poor, to appoint a treasurer annually, who shall give bond with sufficient surety, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office; and that at the expiration thereof he will well and truly, pay and deliver over to his successor all monies, bonds, notes; books, accounts and other papers, to the said corporation belonging, which shall then be remaining in his hands, custody and possession, to employ, and at pleasure to remove a steward or stewards, matron or matrons, physician or physicians, surgeon or surgeons, and all other necessary attendants for the said poor respectively; to bind out as apprentices, so that such apprenticeship may expire, if males, at or before the age of twenty-one years, if females, at or before the age of eighteen years, such poor children as shall come under their notice, or as may now be bound apprentices by the overseers of the poor, and to exercise and enjoy all such other powers now vested in the overseers of the poor, as are not herein granted or supplied; and the said directors shall be empowered to use one common seal in all business relating to the said corporation, and the same at their pleasure to alter or renew

Treasurer to be appointed; his qualification and duties.

Seal of the corporation.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said directors as soon as may be after their election and organization as aforesaid, shall make an estimate of the probable expense of purchasing the lands, erecting the necessary buildings, and furnishing the same, whereupon the commissioners of the said county

Estimate to be made of the expenses of erecting the buildings.

Tax to be raised for defraying the same.

county shall, and they are hereby authorized and required to increase the county-tax by one fourth part of the sum necessary for the purposes aforesaid, and shall procure on loan on the credit of the taxes herein directed to be levied, the remaining three fourths thereof to be paid in instalments with interest out of the county-taxes: *Provided always*, That if such loan cannot be made, the whole amount of the sum necessary for the purposes aforesaid, or such part thereof as may be deemed proper, shall immediately be added to the county tax, to be paid by the county treasurer to the directors aforesaid, on orders drawn in their favor by the county commissioners as the same may be found necessary.

Estimate to be made annually, of the sum necessary for the support of the poor.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That it shall be the duty of the said directors, or a majority of them, immediately after their first election, and so annually for ever thereafter, to make an estimate of the sum necessary for the support of the poor of the said county, for the year ensuing the making such estimate, and shall forward the same to the county commissioners, who shall provide by tax or otherwise, the sum required by such estimate, and pay the same over to the treasurer of the said corporation.

Directors accounts to be rendered annually.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said directors shall, at least once in every year, render an account of all the monies by them received and expended, to the auditors appointed to audit and settle the county accounts, subject to the same penalties, rules and regulations as are by law directed respecting the account of the county commissioners; and shall also, at least once in every year,

year, lay before the court of quarter sessions and grand jury of the said county, a list of the number, ages and sexes of the persons maintained and employed in the said house of employment, or supported or assisted by them elsewhere, and of the children by them bound out to apprenticeships as aforesaid, with the names of the masters or mistresses, and their trade, occupation or calling; and shall at all times, when thereunto required, submit to the inspection and free examination of such visitors as shall from time to time be appointed by the court of quarter sessions of the said county, all their books and accounts, together with the rents, interests and monies payable and receivable by the said corporation, and also an account of all sales, purchases, donations, devises and bequests, as shall have been made by or to them.

Return of persons in the poor house.

Inspection of the books.

· Sect. 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid;* That as soon as the said buildings shall be erected, and all necessary accommodations provided therein, notices shall be sent, signed by any two of the said directors, to the overseers of the poor of the several townships of the said county of Montgomery, requiring them forthwith to bring the poor of their respective townships to the said house of employment, which order the said overseers are hereby enjoined and required to comply with, or otherwise to forfeit the cost of all future maintenance, except in cases when by sickness or other sufficient cause, any poor person cannot be removed, in which case the said overseers shall represent the same to the nearest justice of the peace, who, being satisfied of the truth thereof, shall certify the same to the said directors, and at the same time issue an order under his hand and seal to the overseers, directing them

When and how the poor are to be removed to the house of employment.

Exception as to the sick, and how they are to be provided for.

them to maintain such poor, until such time as he or she shall be in a situation to be removed, and then to convey the said pauper, and deliver him or her to the steward or keeper of the said house of employment, together with the said order; and the charge and expense of such temporary relief, and of such removal, shall be paid by the said directors at a reasonable allowance,

The directors required to receive, provide for and employ the poor of Montgomery county.

Sect. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said directors shall, from time to time, receive, provide for and employ, according to the true intent and meaning of this act, all such poor and indigent persons as shall be entitled to relief, or shall have gained a legal settlement in the said county of Montgomery, and shall be sent there by an order or warrant for that purpose, under the hands and seals of any two justices of the peace, directed to any constable of the said county of Montgomery, or to the overseers of the proper township in any other county of this commonwealth, and to the said directors of the poor and of the house of employment of the said county of Montgomery; and the said directors are hereby authorized, when they shall deem it proper and convenient so to do, to permit any poor person or persons to be maintained elsewhere.

Power of the directors to make rules and regulations.

Sect. 10. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said directors, or any two of them, who shall be a quorum in all cases to do business, shall have full power to make and ordain all such ordinances, rules and regulations, as they shall think proper, convenient and necessary, for the direction, government and support of the poor and house of employment aforesaid, and of the revenues thereunto belonging, and of all such persons as shall come under their

their care or cognizance: *Provided*, The same be not repugnant to this law, or any other of the laws of this State or of the United States: *And provided also*, That the same shall not have any force or effect until they shall have been submitted to the court of common pleas for the time being of the said county of Montgomery, and shall have received the approbation of the said court.

Sect. 11. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That a quorum of said directors shall, and they are hereby enjoined and required to meet at the said house of employment at least once in every month, and visit the apartments, and see that the poor are comfortably supported, and hear all complaints, and redress or cause to be redressed, all grievances which may happen by the neglect or misconduct of any person or persons in their employment.

Times and places of meeting of the directors.

Sect. 12. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said directors shall, each of them, receive for their services forty dollars per annum, to defray the expenses of their necessary attendance on the duties of their offices.

Compensation of the directors.

Sect. 13. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That in case of any vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, of any of the said directors, the remaining directors shall fill such vacancy by appointment of a citizen of their said county, under the same penalty as is provided by the third section of this act, to serve until the next general election, when another director shall be elected to serve as if no such vacancy had happened.

Of supplying vacancies in the direction.

Sect. 14.



How monies  
in the hands  
of the over-  
seers of the  
poor are to be  
applied.

Sect. 14. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all the monies which shall be remaining in the hands of the overseers of the poor of the several townships of Montgomery county, at the time when the first county poor tax shall be assessed, levied and collected, shall be paid over by the said overseers to the supervisors of the highways of their respective townships, to be by them applied towards the repairing of the roads therein.

When the  
office of over-  
seer of the  
poor of Mont-  
gomery county  
is to be abo-  
lished.

Sect. 15. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That as soon as the poor of the county of Montgomery, shall be removed to the house of employment of the said county, the office of overseer of the poor within the said county shall from thenceforth be abolished.

Repeal of  
parts of former  
laws, hereby  
supplied.

Sect. 16. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That as soon as the aforesaid buildings are completed, so much of the laws of this commonwealth, relating to the poor of the county of Montgomery, as is by this act altered or supplied, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Certain duties,  
imposed on the  
overseers of  
the poor, con-  
ferred on the  
supervisors of  
the highways.

Sect. 17. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That when the buildings shall be completed as aforesaid, the powers conferred and duties imposed on the overseers of the poor in and by an act to empower the overseers and guardians of the poor of the several townships within this commonwealth, to recover certain fines, penalties and forfeitures, and for other purposes, shall and hereby are conferred and imposed on the supervisors of the highways in the said county of Montgomery; and that the justices of the peace and sheriff within the said county, are hereby required and enjoined to pay to the said  
super-

supervisors, to be by them applied to the repair of the highways, the aforesaid fines, penalties and forfeitures within the time, and in the manner prescribed by the said act for the payment thereof in other counties, to the overseers of the poor, and to give notice of the receipt thereof to the said supervisors, within the time and in the manner aforesaid; and that for any neglect or refusal to perform any of the duties enjoined on them by the said act, the said justices of the peace and sheriff in the said county, shall be subject to all the fines, penalties and forfeitures, to which the justices of the peace and sheriffs in other counties are by the said act subject and liable.

Sect. 18. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the commissioners of the said county are hereby authorized and empowered to pay to the persons who are appointed by this act, to fix the place where the buildings for the accommodation of the poor in said county shall be erected, such sums of money as will be sufficient to reimburse them for their expenses, and also to pay to each of the said directors such sum of money as (together with the annual sum allowed them by this act), may be in the opinion of the commissioners a reasonable compensation for their services during the time they are employed in erecting the buildings aforesaid.

Compensation to the persons appointed to fix the site of the poor house and additional allowance to the directors.

CHARLES PORTER, *Speaker*  
*of the House of Representatives.*

JAMES BRADY, *Speaker*  
*of the Senate.*

APPROVED—the tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six.

THOMAS M'KEAN.