

PROCLAMATIONS

Defining the Limits of the several Judicial Districts of the Colony,
under authority of the "Judicature Act," 5 Geo. IV., Cap. 67.

(1.)

By *His Excellency Sir THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE*,
THOS. COCHRANE, [L. S.] *Knight, etc., etc., etc.*

Whereas by an Act passed in the fifth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc., intituled "An Act for the better Administration of Justice in Newfoundland and other purposes," it is enacted and declared:

"That it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by his Charter or Letters Patent under the Great Seal, to institute a Supreme Court of Judicature in Newfoundland, which shall be called 'THE SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND'; and that "for the purpose of hearing and trying all suits, actions, and all informations, prosecutions, and other proceedings of what nature or kind soever, which may be brought or commenced in the said Supreme Court, one or more term or terms or session or sessions of the said Court shall be held at the town of St. John's aforesaid, in each year, by the said Chief Judge and Assistant Judges, at such times as the Governor or acting Governor of the said Colony shall from time to time, by any proclamation to be by him for that purpose issued, direct and appoint."

And also, "That it shall and may be lawful for the Governor or acting Governor for the time being of Newfoundland, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him for that purpose issued, to apportion and divide the said Colony into three several districts and to fix and ascertain the boundaries and limits of every such district, and such boundaries or limits from time to time to alter as occasion may require"

And whereas it is in and by the said Act further declared and enacted "That it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by any such Charter or Letters Patent as aforesaid, to institute Circuit Courts in each of the three districts into which the said Colony may be so divided as aforesaid, and that each of the said Circuit Courts shall be holden once at least in each year by the said Chief Judge, or by one of the said Assistant Judges of the said Supreme Court of Newfoundland, at such times and at such one or more place or places within each of the said districts as the Governor or acting Governor for the time being of Newfoundland shall from time to time direct and appoint."

And also "That the Governor or acting Governor of Newfoundland, "upon the arrival in the said Colony of His Majesty's Charter or Letters "Patent for the establishment of the said Courts by virtue of this Act, "shall, by proclamation, notify to the inhabitants of the said Colony the "time when the said Courts respectively shall be intended to be opened."

And whereas His Majesty's said Charter or Letters Patent under the Great Seal, bearing date at Westminster the 19th day of September, in the sixth year of His Majesty's reign, hath arrived in this Colony, and His Majesty hath therein and thereby, of his special grace and in pursuance and by virtue of the said Act of Parliament, thought fit to grant, direct and appoint that there shall be within the Colony of Newfoundland a Court which shall be called "THE SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND," and hath thereby created, erected and constituted the said Supreme Court to be a Court of Record, and directed and appointed that the same shall be composed of and holden by one Chief Judge and two Assistant Judges : And by His Majesty's said Royal Charter hath also granted, directed and appointed that there shall be within His Majesty's said Colony three Circuit Courts, to be held in each of the three districts into which the said Colony may be divided in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, and hath created, erected and constituted the said Circuit Courts respectively to be Courts of Record, and hath directed and appointed that each of the said Circuit Courts shall be holden by the Chief Judge or one of the Assistant Judges of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland as aforesaid.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the powers and authority to me given by the said Act of Parliament, and in compliance with the requisitions and provisions of same and of the said Royal Charter, I, the said Governor, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council, do, by this my proclamation, direct and appoint that the said Colony of Newfoundland shall be and the same is hereby divided into three several districts, to be respectively called the Central, Northern and Southern Districts, and to be respectively comprised and contained within the following limits and boundaries, that is to say : That the Central District shall be bounded on the northward and westward by Conception Bay, and extend along the said Bay from Cape St. Francis to the settlement called Harbour Main including the said settlement, together with the islands within the said Bay called Belle Isle and those immediately adjacent, and that the said Central District shall further extend from the said Cape St. Francis, southwardly, to Bay Bulls, inclusive, which will form the southern boundary thereof, and by a line drawn direct from Bay Bulls to Harbour Main aforesaid ;

That the Northern District shall comprise and include every place, part and portion of the Island of Newfoundland and the bays and rivers of the same, and the islands in or adjacent thereunto, and dependent on the Government of the said Colony, lying and situate between the northern and western limits of the before-described Central District and Cape Norman in the Straits of Bell Isle, inclusive of the settlements contiguous to the said Cape ;

And that the Southern District shall comprise and include every place, part and portion of the said Island of Newfoundland and the bays and rivers of the same, and the islands in or adjacent thereunto and dependent on the Government thereof, lying and situate between Cape Norman aforesaid, and proceeding by the western and southern and eastern shores of the Bay Bulls aforesaid: And in order to prevent all doubt with regard to the extent of the interior jurisdiction of the said Circuit Courts in the said Districts, it is hereby declared that the said jurisdiction shall extend from the sea coast of the one district until it meets equidistant the district immediately opposite.

And I do also hereby notify to the inhabitants of this Colony, and to all others whom it may concern, that the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, instituted by virtue of the before in part recited Act of Parliament and of His Majesty's Charter, will be open at St. John's, on Monday the second day of January next, and that the Central, Northern and Southern Circuit Courts will be respectively opened at St. John's, Harbour Grace and Ferryland on the fifteenth day of May next.

And I do hereby direct and appoint that there shall be three terms or sessions of the Supreme Court to be holden at the town of St. John's during the year ensuing the date of this proclamation; and that the first of such terms or sessions shall commence on the second Wednesday in the month of April next, and continue for the space of three weeks thence next ensuing; and that the second term or session of the said Court shall commence on the second Wednesday in the month of July next, and continue for the space of six weeks thence next ensuing; and that the third session or term of the said Court shall commence on the fourth Wednesday in the month of November next, and continue for the space of three weeks thence next ensuing.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at the Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, this 10th day of December, in the sixth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Fourth, and in the year of Our Lord 1825.

(By command of His Excellency the Governor),

(Signed), E. B. BRENTON,
Secretary.

(2.)

By His Excellency THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE, Knight,
 THOS. COCHRANE, [L. S.] *Governor and Commander-in-Chief, etc., etc.*

Whereas by an Act passed in the fifth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for the better Administration of Justice in Newfoundland, and for other purposes," it is declared and enacted that the Circuit Courts for this Colony shall be holden in each year at such times and at such one or more place or places within each of the three Districts of the said Colony as the Governor or acting Governor for the time being of Newfoundland shall from time to time direct and appoint; and also that it shall and may be lawful for the said Governor or acting Governor, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him for that purpose issued, to fix and ascertain the boundaries and limits of the three several districts of the said Colony, and such boundaries or limits from time to time to alter as occasion may require.

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And whereas it hath been represented unto me that the public convenience will be promoted by extending the boundary of the said Central District to the southward, so as to include the River La Manche in the said District; and also that it would be a like convenience to annex the settlement called Harbour Main, in Conception Bay, (heretofore belonging to the Central District) to the Northern District, I, the said Governor, do therefore hereby order, direct and appoint that henceforth the southern boundary of the said Central District shall be and the same is hereby enlarged and extended from Bay Bulls to the River La Manche, inclusive, and thence in and by a line drawn direct from the River La Manche to Harbour Main aforesaid, exclusive.

And I do also order, direct and appoint that the said settlement called Harbour Main shall henceforward be and the same is hereby annexed to the said Northern District of this Colony.

GIVEN under my Hand and Seal, at the Government House,
 St. John's, the 21st day of August 1826, in the
 seventh year of His Majesty's reign.

(By command of His Excellency),

(Signed),

E. B. BRENTON,
Secretary.