

## CHAPTER XVI.

## AN ACT AGAINST DEFACERS OF CHARTERS, &amp;c.

Whereas the security of titles and property in a great measure depends on the safety and certainty of writings and records:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and Territories, in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That whosoever shall forge, deface, corrupt or embezzle any charters, gifts, grants, bonds, bills, wills, conveyances of contracts, or shall deface or falsify any enrolment, registry or record, within this province or territories, shall forfeit double the value of the damage thereby sustained, one-half whereof shall go to the party wronged; and the person so offending shall be discarded from all places of trust, and publicly disgraced as a false person, in the pillory or otherwise, at the discretion of the court before whom the cause shall be tried.

Passed November 27, 1700; allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter, having been considered by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6, and not acted upon. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly, passed March 1, 1799, Chapter 2023.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## AN ACT FOR COUNTY SEALS AND AGAINST COUNTERFEITING HANDS AND SEALS.

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and Territories in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That there shall be a county seal in every county of this province and territories thereof for the use of each county. And if any person within the said province or territories shall

be convicted of counterfeiting the hand or seal of another, such person shall suffer three months' imprisonment at hard labor, and be fined treble the value he or she shall have made or attempted to have made thereby. And whosoever shall counterfeit or imitate any of the above said county seals, upon conviction thereof, shall suffer twelve month's imprisonment as aforesaid, and be fined as the respective county court shall see meet. And whosoever shall counterfeit or imitate the privy or [the] broad seal of the said province and territories, being convicted thereof, shall suffer seven years' imprisonment as aforesaid and be fined at the discretion of the governor and council.

Passed November 27, 1700; repealed by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 149.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

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### AN ACT FOR REGULATING THE INTEREST OF MONEY.

For prevention of extortion in usurers, and the exaction of immoderate interest for money in this province and countries annexed:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Proprietary and Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of this Province and Territories in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person shall, directly nor indirectly, take for the loan or use of money, or any other commodities, above the value of eight pounds, for the forbearance of one hundred pounds, or its value, for one year, and so, proportionably, for a greater or less sum. And whosoever shall be proved to have received or taken more than as aforesaid, shall forfeit the money and other things lent, one-half to the use of the proprietary and governor and the other half to the informer.

Passed November 27, 1700; allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter, having been considered by the Queen in Council, February 7, 1705-6, and not acted upon. See Appendix I, Section II, and the Act of Assembly, passed March 2, 1722-23, Chapter 262.