

CHAPTER CCLVII.

AN ACT FOR ENCOURAGING THE RAISING OF HEMP WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas by divers acts of parliament of the kingdom of Great Britain, large encouragements have been and are given for the raising of hemp in His Majesty's plantations in America and importing the same into the said kingdom. To the end, therefore, that the people of this province may be the more effectually led into the practice of raising good and merchantable hemp, for the service of the said kingdom, and for promoting the trade of this colony:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by Sir William Keith, Baronet, Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, &c., by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That there shall be paid out of the public revenue of this province, as an encouragement or bounty for all good, sound, well-dressed, merchantable hemp, suitable and fit for exportation, that shall grow and be raised in this province by any person or persons whatsoever, from and after the publication of this act, until the full end and expiration of three years next ensuing, the sum of one penny for every pound of such merchantable hemp raised as aforesaid.

[Section II.] And be it further enacted, That a good and convenient warehouse shall be kept at the charge of the public, by the officer hereinafter appointed, into which the said officer shall receive all such quantities (not being less than twenty-five pounds in one parcel) of sound, well-dressed merchantable hemp, as aforesaid, as shall be brought to him by the person or persons who shall raise the same. And upon such person or persons making oath or affirmation before the said officer, that he, she or they did truly and *bona fide* raise the said hemp, and that the same hath not nor any part thereof has ever before been tendered to the said officer, or any bounty paid or

allowed for the same, which oath or affirmation the officer is hereby empowered to administer, he, the said officer, shall forthwith pay to such person or persons, out of the money of the public in his hands, one penny for every pound weight of such hemp, as aforesaid; and shall give to the owner of the said hemp a receipt under his hand for the quantity by him received, certifying the same to be good and merchantable; for his trouble in which the officer shall receive one shilling for every one hundred pounds, and so proportionably for a greater or lesser quantity and no more.

And all such hemp shall lie in the said ware[house,] if the owner thinks fit to store it, till such time as he, or some person by his order, shall apply to the said officer with his receipt for the said hemp; upon producing of which receipt the said hemp for which such receipt was given shall be delivered, in the same good order in which it was received, to the said owner or his order (casualties of fire, and such like accidents, excepted) without any further charge, saving porters' hire and an allowance of four pence per hundred for attending the store.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted, That the officer appointed for the receiving the excise and [duty on] criminals convict, imported into this province, for the time being, shall [be] and hereby is appointed the officer for receiving and viewing all such hemp, as aforesaid, and for paying the bounty hereby granted and allowed for the term aforesaid.

Passed May 22, 1722. Apparently never submitted to the consideration of the Crown. See Appendix V, Section I, and the Act of Assembly passed March 20, 1724-25, Chapter 286, and the note thereto.