

(the Resolution passed) March 17, 1843, P. L. 379; March 8, 1870, P. L. 356.

As to Section XV, see the note to the Act of Assembly passed January 12, 1705-6, Chapter 161; and see the Acts of Assembly passed February 6, 1730-31, Chapter 321; (the Constitution of 1776, Plan of Government, Section XXXI); September 13, 1785, Chapter 1175; September 29, 1789, Chapter 1452; and the Constitution of 1790, Article VI, Section I; 1838, Article VI, Section I; 1873, Article XIV, Sections I and II.

CHAPTER CCCXVI.

AN ACT FOR CONTINUING THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR RAISING GOOD HEMP WITHIN THIS PROVINCE AND IMPOSING CERTAIN PENALTIES ON PERSONS MANUFACTURING OR WORKING UP UNSOUND AND UNMERCHANTABLE HEMP INTO CORDAGE AND CABLES.

Whereas by two several acts of assembly passed in the eighth and eleventh years of his late Majesty's reign the encouragement of one penny per pound was given for all good, sound, merchantable hemp raised within this province, and by another act made in the thirteenth year of his said late Majesty's reign a greater encouragement of one penny halfpenny per pound was given in lieu of the aforesaid one penny per pound for all good merchantable water-rotted hemp raised within this province, which said act is now near expired. And whereas it is found by experience that the aforesaid bounty granted by the last-recited act hath much encouraged many people within this province to apply themselves to the raising of good hemp and carefully to water-rot the same, which might be of very great service, as well for the use of the inhabitants of this province as for exportation, if due care were taken to prevent the mixing up bad hemp with the good hemp manufactured in this province.

Therefore that the good purposes by the aforesaid acts may be more fully answered:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable Patrick Gordon, Esquire, [Lieutenant-] Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, &c., by and with the advice and consent of the represen-

tatives 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 by the officer hereinafter appointed to put this act in execution, in lieu of all other bounties and encouragements granted by former acts of assembly, the sum of one penny halfpenny for every pound of good, sound, well-ordered and merchantable water-rotted hemp fit for exportation that is or shall be raised within this province from and after the time of the publication of this act until the first day of May, which will be in the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-three.

And for the better discovery of the quality of such hemp for which a bounty by this act is payable, as well as for preventing the bringing to market or selling or exposing to sale any unsound hemp not being fit for ship cordage:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every person or persons importing any hemp by land or water into the county or city of Philadelphia shall bring the same directly to the public beam at the workhouse in Philadelphia, and shall before the same be sold, agreed for or unloaded (except for bringing the same from the water-side) give notice thereof to the person appointed by this act to search and view hemp, on penalty of forfeiting all such hemp as shall be imported and unloaded or sold or agreed for to any person or persons whatsoever before the same be searched, viewed and allowed of as by this act is directed.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That upon such notice given to the said officer he shall forthwith give his attendance at the said workhouse, and then and there shall search, view and weigh all the hemp brought thither, and shall allow and pay to the owner or importer of such hemp or other person having right to receive the same the sum of one penny halfpenny for every pound of good, clean, sound, well-ordered, merchantable water-rotted hemp, being of the growth and manufacture of this province; he, she or they claiming the said bounty having first taken an oath or affirmation (to be administered by the officer appointed to put this act in execution, who is hereby empowered to ad-

minister the same), that the said hemp is of the growth of this province, and that the same was water-rotted according to the true intent and meaning of this present act, and that the same hath not nor any part thereof hath ever before been tendered to the said officer or any bounty paid or allowed for the same; and if upon such search or trial of any hemp, whether the same be dew-rotted or water-rotted, any dispute shall arise between the officer and possessor of such hemp concerning the soundness and goodness of the said hemp and whether the same be fit for ship cordage the said officer shall seize or secure the same, and thereupon shall apply himself to some justice of the peace of the city or county of Philadelphia, who is hereby required to issue forth his warrant to two persons who are supposed to have the best skill in well-dressed and merchantable hemp, thereby requiring the said two persons upon their oath or affirmation, to be administered to them by the officer appointed to put this act in execution, who is hereby empowered to administer the same, to view, search and try the goodness or unsoundness of the said hemp so seized or secured, and also to value and appraise the same if need shall be. And if they, upon their qualification as aforesaid, shall judge the said hemp unfit to be wrought up into ship cordage, they shall certify the same under their hands, together with the quantity and price at which they shall value the said hemp; and thereupon the officer appointed in this act (upon the owner's paying or securing the payment of such charges as shall be allowed by the magistrate who granted the warrant for the trial and appraisement of the said hemp, which shall not exceed the sum of five shillings for any quantity under five hundred pounds weight nor ten shillings for any greater quantity) shall give an order to the owner of the said hemp upon the treasurer of the county of Philadelphia for the appraised value, which order the said treasurer is hereby required to pay or satisfy to the bearer thereof out of the moneys belonging to the county in his hands. And the officer is hereby further required to deliver the said hemp to the overseer or keeper of the workhouse of the county and city of Philadelphia and take his receipt for the same, which overseer shall account to the commissioners

and assessors of the said county for the said hemp when he shall be thereunto required.

And whereas it is found by experience that dew-rotted hemp, though seemingly strong and sound and may be fit for ship cordage, yet when made up into cables or hawsers does not prove of a sufficient strength and will soon rot by continuing in the water; and it being too often the practice of persons keeping rope-walks within this province to work up dew-rotted and unsound hemp with water-rotted hemp into cables and hawsers, to the great loss and disappointment of the merchants and owners of vessels using the same, which hath brought a great discredit upon the hemp manufacture of this province:

For the preventing of which fraudulent practices for the future:

[Section IV.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the officer appointed by this act, as often as he shall think fit and whensoever he shall be thereto required, to enter into and search any store, warehouse or other workhouse and rope-walk belonging to any person selling, working up or manufacturing any hemp into cordage, cables or hawsers within the city and county of Philadelphia, and there to search and view all the hemp he shall find; and if upon search the said officer shall find any rotten or unsound hemp and not fit to be wrought up into ship cordage, the said officer shall seize the same, which hemp shall be forfeited, one moiety thereof to the officer and the other moiety to the use of the poor of the city or county where the same shall be seized.

And that every such rope maker or person keeping a rope-walk shall take an oath or affirmation that he hath not, since the publication of this act, wrought or caused or suffered to be wrought nor will suffer to be wrought or made up into cables or hawsers or into any sort of spun yarn to be wrought up into cables or hawsers, any hemp, mixed or unmixed, except what is or shall be good, sound water-rotted hemp, which oath or affirmation the said officer appointed by this act is hereby empowered and required to administer once every year and oftener if the said officer shall judge it needful.

[Section V.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any rope maker or other person shall be found within this province working up or making into cables or hawsers or into spun yarn or thread to be used in cables or hawsers any dew-rotted or unmerchantable hemp, whether the same be mixed or unmixed with good water-rotted hemp, or shall, without notice first given to the officer appointed by this act, tar or work up any spun yarn or thread into cables or hawsers before the same spun yarn and thread be viewed by the said officer, and being thereof legally convict, the person or persons so working or making or causing to be wrought up, spun or made any dew-rotted or unsound hemp, mixed or unmixed, in cables or hawsers or into spun yarn to be used in cables or hawsers, or shall tar or work up any spun yarn or thread into cables or hawsers before the same be viewed as aforesaid, shall for every offense forfeit the sum of five pounds, one moiety to the use of the poor and the other moiety to the person or persons who will inform and sue for the same.

[Section VI.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Peter Lloyd, of Philadelphia, merchant, shall be and is hereby appointed the officer to put this act in execution, who, before he enter upon his office, shall be qualified upon his oath or affirmation faithfully to execute the same without favor or regard to any person whatsoever and shall receive for his salary and in full for all the services required to be done by him in the execution of this act the sum of one shilling and three pence for every hundred weight of hemp which he shall search, view and weigh, and the sum of three shillings for every cable or hawser under five inches, and the sum of five shillings for every cable above that measure.

And for the enabling the said officer to pay the bounty for good, sound, water-rotted hemp, as directed by this act:

[Section VII.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the collector of excise shall annually, out of the first moneys arising by the said excise which shall come into his hands, pay to the officer appointed by this act the sum of one hundred pounds, for which sum the said officer shall annually account with the provincial treasurer for the [residue of the]

said sum that shall be remaining in his hands after payment of the bounty upon hemp directed to be paid by this act.

Passed February 14, 1729-30. Apparently never considered by the Crown, but allowed to become a law by lapse of time, in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Volume III, Appendix V, Section I. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed January 10, 1731-32, Chapter 328.

CHAPTER CCCXVII.

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL LOAN OFFICE OF PENNSYLVANIA AND APPOINTING OTHERS TO EXECUTE THE SAID TRUST.

Whereas in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twenty-three an act of general assembly of the province of Pennsylvania was made "For emitting and making current fifteen thousand pounds in bills of credit,"¹ to be let out upon loan for the term of eight years at the interest of five per cent per annum and for other purposes in the said act mentioned. And in the same year one other act of general assembly of the said province was made "For emitting and making current thirty thousand pounds in bills of credit,"² to be let out upon loan for the term of twelve years and a half at the like interest of five per cent per annum and for such other purposes as in the said act is directed. And in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-six one other act of general assembly of the said province was made "For re-emitting and continuing the currency of such bills of credit as by the said two former acts were directed to be sunk and destroyed, and for striking and making current ten thousand pounds in new bills of credit to supply those bills that were torn and defaced."³ And in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine one other act of assembly of the said province was

¹ Passed March 2, 1722-23, Chapter 261.

² Passed December 12, 1723, Chapter 275.

³ Passed March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 289.