

CHAPTER CCCXXVI.

AN ACT TO DISABLE WILLIAM FISHBOURN FROM HOLDING ANY OFFICE OF TRUST OR PROFIT WITHIN THIS PROVINCE AND TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF A PROVINCIAL DEBT DUE FROM THE SAID WILLIAM FISHBOURN.

Whereas the office of a trustee of the general loan office of the province of Pennsylvania is an office of great importance, upon the due execution of which as well the security of the province in general as that of particular persons very much depends.

And whereas William Fishbourn, of Philadelphia, gentleman, being one of the trustees of the said general loan office from the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two, to the month of August, one thousand seven hundred and thirty, and during that time was intrusted with the lending out upon good security and receiving in again and sinking and destroying the bills of credit made current by several acts of assembly of this province, according to the tenor and directions of the said several acts of assembly.

And whereas it is manifest by several accounts and reports of the committee of the general assembly of this province, and it hath appeared upon a full hearing before the house of representatives of the freemen of the said province, in the presence of the said William Fishbourn, that during his continuance in the said office of trustee of the general loan office aforesaid he had fraudulently concealed and applied to his own use a considerable sum of the said bills of credit in high violation of his trust and in open breach of the duty of his office and contrary to the tenor and directions of the said laws, to the great damage of the public and to the great disappointment of many of the inhabitants of this province who had occasion to borrow the said bills of credit upon good land security, as by the said acts is provided.

And whereas the continuance of the said William Fishbourn

in such high trusts may tend as well to the prejudice of the province as to the injury of particular persons with whom he may have to do in a public capacity:

For preventing which mischiefs and inconveniencies:

[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 representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this act until the end and expiration of five years next ensuing the said William Fishbourn shall be and is hereby disabled and rendered incapable of being a member of [the] general assembly of this province or to hold and enjoy any place, office or employment of profit or trust within the said province of Pennsylvania.

And whereas the said William Fishbourn stands indebted to the province of Pennsylvania in the sum of one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine pounds eighteen shillings and three farthings, which ought to be forthwith paid unto the trustees of the general loan office in order to be let out upon loan on good land security to persons having occasion to borrow the same, yet forasmuch as it appears the immediate levying so great a sum of money upon the estate of the said William Fishbourn might very much affect the circumstances of his family:

[Section II.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the trustees of [the] general loan office of the said province are hereby empowered to take and receive of the aforesaid William Fishbourn such lands, tenements, rents and hereditaments of which he is seized in fee-simple, clear of incumbrances, the proprietary rents and such other rents as shall be discovered to them only excepted, as they shall judge sufficient for securing the payment of the said sum of one thousand and seven hundred and seventy-nine pounds eighteen shillings and three farthings with interest of five per cent per annum within the space of five years by equal payments, so as the lands and ground-rents be at least double the value and

houses treble the value of the sum for which they shall be taken in security.

Passed February 6, 1730-31. 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, and the Act of Assembly passed January 19, 1733-34, Chapter 334.