

## CHAPTER CCCCXXIII.

AN ACT FOR STRIKING THE SUM OF FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS, THE REMAINDER OF THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS GRANTED BY THIS ASSEMBLY TO THE KING'S USE, AND FOR MAKING THE SAME CURRENT WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas by an act passed in the thirtieth year of the present reign, entitled "A supplement to the act, entitled 'An act for granting sixty thousand pounds to the King's use and for striking fifty-five thousand pounds thereof in bills of credit and to provide a fund for sinking the same, and for granting to His Majesty the additional sum of one hundred thousand pounds,'"<sup>1</sup> amongst other things it was provided and enacted that the sum of forty-five thousand pounds, part of the said sum of one hundred thousand pounds, should be struck in paper bills of credit and made current within this province.

And whereas the said sum of forty-five thousand pounds is nearly expended by the commissioners with the assent of the governor, and the fifty-five thousand pounds directed to be paid into the hands of the provincial treasurer in four yearly payments from the tax imposed by the said act on the several counties within this province and by him to be paid to the commissions therein named for the uses in the said act directed and appointed, will be wanted for the payment of the troops and other necessary expenses of the government before the said tax or any part thereof can be levied and collected.

[Section I.] Therefore be it enacted by the Honorable William Denny, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, 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

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<sup>1</sup> Passed March 23, 1757, Chapter 422.

of the same, That bills of credit of the value of forty-five thousand pounds lawful money of America, according to an act of Parliament made in the sixth year of the reign of the late Queen Anne for ascertaining the rates of foreign coins in the plantations in America, shall within one month next after passing this act be prepared and printed on good, strong paper under the care and direction of the trustees of the general loan office aforesaid, the charge whereof shall be paid by the province in the manner the other charges are directed to be paid by the act, entitled "A supplement to an act for granting the sum of sixty thousand pounds to the King's use and for striking fifty-five thousand pounds thereof in bills of credit and to provide a fund for sinking the same, and for granting to His Majesty the additional sum of one hundred thousand pounds," which bills shall be made and prepared in manner and form following and no other: (That is to say)

This bill shall pass current for \_\_\_\_\_ within the province of Pennsylvania, according to an act of assembly made in the thirtieth year of the reign of King George the Second. Dated the first day of July, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven.

And the same bills shall have such like escutcheons as in the margin hereof, with such other devices on the said bills as the said trustees shall think fit, as well to prevent counterfeits as to distinguish their several denominations, each of which bills shall be of the several and respective denominations following and no other, viz.:



Twenty-two thousand of the same bills, the sum of twenty shillings in each of them.

Twenty-two thousand of the same bills, the sum of fifteen shillings in each of them.

Twenty-two thousand of the same bills, the sum of ten shillings in each of them.

Twenty-two thousand the same bills, the sum of five shillings in each of them.

And the said trustees shall use the best of their care, attention and diligence during the printing of the said bills that the number and amount thereof according to their respective de-

nominations aforesaid be not exceeded, nor any clandestine or fraudulent practice be used by the said printer, his servants or persons concerned therein.

And for the perfecting the said bills, to make them current within the province according to the true intent and meaning of this act:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every of the said bills shall be signed by the persons following or any three of them, viz.: Joseph Morris, Charles Thomson, Henry Harrison, Charles Meredith, John Ord, Thomas Clifford, Joseph Richardson, Thomas Wharton, Edward Penington, Charles Jones, Joseph Redman, Thomas Davis, Richard Wistar, Thomas Gordon, Joseph Hillborn, William Morris, Junior, Francis Rawle, Samuel Burge, Evan Morgan, William Fisher, Thomas Say, John Lynn, James Humphreys, Joseph Stretch and Plunket Fleeson, who are hereby nominated and appointed to be signers of the said bills, and shall before they receive or sign any of the said bills of credit, take an oath or affirmation to the following effect, viz.:

That they shall well and truly sign and number all the bills of credit that shall come to their hands for that purpose by the direction of this act, and the same so signed and numbered will deliver or cause to be delivered unto the trustees of the general loan office of the province of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the direction of this act.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees after the said bills are printed shall deliver them to the said signers to be signed and numbered by parcels, for which the said signers or some of them shall give their receipts, of all which bills of credit so delivered to be signed by the trustees, true accounts shall be kept by the signers, who upon the re-delivery of each or any parcel of the said bills of credit by them signed and numbered to the trustees of the general loan office shall take the receipt of the said trustees, to charge them before any committee of assembly to be appointed for that purpose.

And the said signers shall have fifteen shillings apiece for every thousand of the aforesaid bills by them respectively signed and numbered, to be paid by the province in the manner directed

for defraying the other charges arising by virtue of the act hereinbefore mentioned.

[Section IV.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all the aforesaid bills of credit to be made as this act directs shall be current bills of this province until the tenth day of March in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one and no longer. And [as] such shall during the said term be received in payment for the discharge of all manner of debts, rents, sum and sums of money whatsoever due, payable or accruing upon any or by reason of any mortgage, bill, bond, specialty, note, book account, promise or other contract or cause whatsoever as if the same were tendered or paid in the coins mentioned in such bond or other writing, book account, promise, assumption or any other contract or cause whatsoever, and at the rates ascertained in the said act of Parliament, and shall be so received in all payments by all persons whatsoever.

[Section V.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall presume to counterfeit any of the said bills of credit made current by this act by printing or procuring the same to be printed in the likeness of the said genuine bills of credit, and also if any person or persons shall forge the name or names of the signers of the true bills of credit to such counterfeit bills, whether the counterfeiting of the said bills or names be done within this province or elsewhere, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited as aforesaid, and being thereof legally convicted by confession, standing mute or by the verdict of twelve men in any court of record within this province, he, she or they shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. And the discoverer or informer shall have as an encouragement for his discovery the sum of fifty pounds of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the person convicted, and if no such goods and chattels can be found, then the treasurer shall pay to such informer or discoverer, his executors, administrators or assigns, the sum of ten pounds. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit of this province by altering the denomination of the said bills with design to increase the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall thereof be legally convicted

in any court of record in this province, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory and to have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory, and to be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-one lashes well laid on. And moreover, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, to be levied on his and her lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one-half to the use of the governor and the other half to the discoverer, and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of prosecution. And in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall by order of the court where he or she was convicted be sold for any term not exceeding seven years for satisfaction, and in such case the said treasurer shall reward the discoverer of such insolvent offender to the value of five pounds. And every such counterfeit bill shall be delivered to the said treasurer to be made use of upon the trial of the person accused or suspected, and afterwards to be burnt and destroyed by the said treasurer in the presence of a committee of assembly.

[Section VI.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if the commissioners or assessors shall refuse or neglect to perform and discharge the duties required of them by the act hereinbefore-mentioned, entitled "A supplement to the act, entitled 'An act for granting sixty thousand pounds to the King's use and for striking fifty-five thousand pounds thereof in bills of credit, and to provide a fund for sinking the same and for granting to His Majesty the additional sum of one hundred thousand pounds,'" each and every of the said commissioners or assessors so refusing shall forfeit and pay to the provincial treasurer the sum of fifty pounds; and the commissioner or commissioners and assessors who shall act or a majority of them shall appoint some other fit person or persons in the place or stead of such as shall refuse to act as aforesaid. And every collector or collectors who shall neglect or refuse to take upon him or themselves the trust and duty required of him or them by the said act, he or they so refusing or neglecting shall forfeit

and pay to the county treasurer the sum of twenty pounds each, and the commissioners shall appoint some other fit person or persons in the place or stead of the collector or collectors so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid, all which said fines and forfeitures shall be levied as in the act for raising county rates and levies is directed and shall be added to the public provincial stock.

[Section VII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the clause in the hereinbefore-mentioned act of assembly entitled "A supplement to the act, entitled 'An act for granting sixty thousand pounds to the King's use and for striking fifty-five thousand pounds thereof in bills of credit, and to provide a fund for sinking the same,' and for granting to His Majesty the additional sum of one hundred thousand pounds," enacting that the provincial treasurer shall yearly pay to the provincial commissioners therein named the sum of thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds in four yearly payments, making in the whole fifty-five thousand pounds, shall be and is hereby declared to be null, void and of none effect, but that the four yearly payments and every part thereof shall be paid into the hands of the trustees of the general loan office to be sunk by them in the manner the sum of forty-five thousand pounds in bills of credit, the residue of the [one] hundred thousand pounds granted to the King's use, in and by the said act is directed to be sunk and destroyed, anything in the said hereinbefore in part recited act to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Section VIII.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees for their trouble in receiving and sinking the said bills shall have and receive ten shillings for every hundred pounds and no more, to be paid in the manner hereinbefore directed for the payment of other the charges accruing by virtue of this act.

Passed June 17, 1757. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, January 27, 1758, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXI, Section IV, and notes to the Acts of Assembly passed March 5, 1725-26, Chapter 289; March 23, 1757, Chapter 422.