

CHAPTER DCCXCV.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING THE PRICES OF THE SEVERAL ARTICLES
HEREIN MENTIONED FOR A LIMITED TIME.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas certain persons in this state, instigated by the lust of avarice and devoid of every principle of public virtue and humanity are assiduously endeavoring, by every means of oppression, sharpening and extortion, to accumulate enormous gain to themselves, to the great distress of private families in general and especially of the poorer and more dependent part of the community as well as to the great injury of the public service:

(Section II, P. L.) For the suppression of such nefarious practices:

[Section I.] Be it enacted and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons whatsoever within this commonwealth from and after the first day of June next, shall ask, demand, receive, or take any greater or higher prices for any or either of the articles herein enumerated and mentioned than the several prices herein set down and limited, to-wit:

For wheat by the bushel twelve shillings. Merchantable flour by the hundred thirty-three shillings. Rye by the bushel ten shillings. Indian corn by the bushel seven shillings and six pence. Barley by the bushel ten shillings. Oats and spelts by the bushel six shillings. Buckwheat by the bushel five shillings. Whiskey, full prove, by the gallon nine shillings. Good cider by the barrel thirty shillings. Good strong beer by the barrel forty-five shillings. Good pork by the pound, from nine pence to a shilling according to its quality. Beef by the pound, from eight pence to one shilling according to its quality. Firkin butter, tallow, and cheese by the pound, one shilling and three pence. Fresh butter by the pound two shillings. Wool

of a good quality by the pound four shillings. Flax from the swingle by the pound two shillings. Hemp of good quality by the pound one shilling and three pence. Bar iron by the ton eighty pounds. Nail rod iron by the hundred six pounds. Green hides by the pound eight pence. Sole leather by the pound four shillings. Upper leather well finished off by the pound six shillings. Other leather and skins in proportion. Deer skins in the hair of the best quality by the pound five shillings, and others in proportion.

[Section II.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That cloths of all kinds manufactured in this state and all laborers and hirelings' wages both men and women by the day, month or year, together with all tradesmen and manufacturers of all kinds their rates and prices shall be double of what was usual in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four and shall be ascertained in case of any controversy by the two nearest justices of the peace whose determination in the premises shall be final between the parties.

Hay by the ton, and wood by the cord in the aforesaid proportions, to-wit, hay where sold for forty shillings shall hereafter be sold for four pounds; and wood where sold for fourteen shillings shall hereafter be sold for twenty-eight shillings and so in proportion for any larger or lesser quantity.

All goods, wares and merchandises of any kind whatsoever now on hand, twenty-five per centum on the price given by the present owner including the carriage, which cost and carriage shall be made appear on oath or affirmation before the next justice of the peace where such goods and merchandise are opened for sale and an invoice of the same shall be left with the said justice for the perusal of the public.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all goods, wares and merchandise brought into this state from any of the United States of North America, shall not be sold at a higher price than twenty-five per centum advance on the first cost, or purchase paid by the importer into this state to which it may be lawful for the importer to add a reasonable charge of carriage by him paid, which said prime

cost and carriage are to be made appear as in the foregoing clause.

[Section IV.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person or persons whatsoever within this commonwealth who shall ask, demand, receive or take any greater or higher price or prices for any or either of the said several articles herein mentioned and recited shall for every such offense forfeit the goods or other articles so sold or offered for sale as aforesaid or the value thereof, to be recovered with costs of suit before any justice of the peace if five pounds or under, and if more in any court of common pleas within this commonwealth to and for the use of any person who shall sue for the same.

[Section V.] (Section VI, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justices of the peace at their court of general quarter sessions of the peace for the several counties of this state shall have full power to set such reasonable prices on all provisions and victuals sold in the public houses in the said respective counties as they shall see fit which prices shall be published by the crier at the conclusion of their said respective sessions and fixed upon the court-house door for public view.

Passed April 1, 1778. See the Act of Assembly passed May 25, 1778, Chapter 799. The act in the text was repealed by the Act of Assembly passed September 9, 1778, Chapter 812.

CHAPTER DCCXCVI.

AN ACT FOR THE FURTHER SECURITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(Section I, P. L.) Whereas the welfare and happiness of the good people of this commonwealth do next under God, entirely depend upon the maintaining and supporting the independence and sovereignty of the state as declared by Congress:

[Section I.] (Section II, P. L.) Be it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the