Anno vicesimo nono

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act to render more effectual an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George*, to prevent unlawful Combinations of Workmen employed in the Woollen Manufactures, and for better Payment of their Wages; and also an Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty, for the better Regulation of the Woollen Manufacture; and for preventing Disputes among the Persons concerned therein; and for limiting a Time for prosecuting for the Forfeiture appointed by the aforesaid Act, in case of the Payment of the Workmens Wages, in any other Manner than in Money.



WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George, intituled, An Act to prevent unlawful Combinations of Workmen employed in the Woollen Manufactures; and for the better Payment of their Wages; it is enacted, That if any Clothier, Serge-maker, Woollen or Worsted Stuff-maker, or Person concerned in making any Woollen Clothes, Serges, or Stuffs, or any ways concerned in employing Wool-combers, Weav-

Preamble, reciting Clauses in Act 12 *Geo.* 1.

ers; or other Labourers, in the Woollen Manufactures, shall pay any Person or Persons employed by them their Wages, or other Price agreed on, or any Part thereof, either in Goods or by way of Truck, or in any other Manner than in Money, every Person so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds: And whereas several Prosecutions have been carried on against Offenders, for Offences committed in breach of the said Act, in Manner therein prescribed, but the Trials thereupon have been removed by Certiorari, into some or One of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, and such Prosecutions have been dropt upon account of the Expence of carrying them on: And whereas by an Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty, intituled, An Act for the better Regulation of the Woollen Manufacture, and for preventing Disputes among the Persons concerned therein; and for limiting a Time for prosecuting for the Forfeitures, appointed by an Act of the Twelfth Year of His said late Majesty's Reign, in case of the Payment of the Workmens Wages in any other Manner than in Money; it is enacted, That every Maker of Mixed, Medley, or White Broad Cloth, shall satisfy and pay the Weaver or Weavers employed by such Maker, in or about the weaving the same, according to the Number of Yards that the said Chains are laid on the Warping Bars, and not otherwise, on Pain of forfeiting and paying for every Offence, contrary to the true Meaning thereof, the Sum of Five Pounds: And whereas by reason of the Smallness of the said Penalties, and the expensive Manner of recovering thereof, and the Want of proper Powers to regulate the Wages to be paid to Weavers, the good Purposes intended by the said Acts have been no Ways answered; For Remedy whereof; May it please Your Majesty, that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twenty-fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and fifty six, it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace assembled at any of their General or Quarter Sessions, held next after Michaelmas yearly, to make Rates for the Payment of Wages to Weavers, and others employed in the Woollen Manufactures, according to the Number of Yards that the Chains are laid upon the Warping Bars, and not otherwise, which Rates shall continue for One Year from the making thereof; and the said Justices shall yearly

and 13 *Geo.* I.

Justices, at the *Michaelmas* Sessions, to settle the Rates of Labour yearly.

in their said General or Quarter Sessions, either continue such Rates for another Year, or alter them in such Manner as they shall think fit; always observing the Directions of the said Act for that Purpose, as aforesaid; and if any Maker of Mixed, Medley, or White Broad Cloth, shall not pay to the Weaver or Weavers, employed by such Maker, according to such Rates, every Person so offending, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Pounds.

Master not conforming thereto, forfeits 5*l.*

Provided always, That such Justices shall yearly order and direct, that the Rates so made, shall, within Twenty Days after making thereof, be fixed upon all the Church Doors and Chapel Doors, within their respective Jurisdictions, by the High Constables, Petty Constables, or other Peace Officers, in Manner as the said Justices shall think fit.

Rates to be affixed upon the Church Doors, &c.

And be it further enacted, That if any Clothier, Serge-maker, Woollen or Worsted Stuff-maker, Worsted or Woollen Yarn Stocking-maker, or Person concerned in making any Woollen Clothes, Serges, Stuffs, Worsted or Woollen Yarn Stockings, or any other Person any ways concerned for himself or another, in employing Weavers, Combers of Jersey, or Wool Worsted Combers, Spinners, Knitters, or other Labourers, in the Woollen Manufactures, shall pay, or cause to be paid, to any Person or Persons, employed by him or them, his or their Wages, or other Price agreed on, or any Part thereof, either in Goods, or by Way of Truck, Bill, or Note, or in any other Manner than in Money, every Person so offending, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Pounds.

Masters paying Workmen in any other Manner than in Money only, forfeits 20*l.*

And be it further enacted, That the respective Penalties and Forfeitures incurred and made payable by this Act, may be recovered by Action of Debt, by any Person who shall sue for the same, or may be levied upon Conviction before any Two or more Justices of the Peace, for the County or Place where the Offence is committed, either by the Confession of the Party or Parties, or upon the Oath of One or more Witness or Witnesses, in case the same be not paid within Fourteen Days after such Conviction, by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Offender or Offenders, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of such Justices (which Warrant or Warrants such Justices are hereby authorized to grant, and to administer such Oath or Oaths) returning the Overplus, if any be, after all Charges paid; and for want of sufficient Distress, the said Justices shall commit the Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, for any

Penalties and Forfeitures how to be recovered and applied.

For want of Distress Offender to be committed.

Time not exceeding Three Months, or until Satisfaction shall be made by the Parties offending.

Application of Penalties levied upon Conviction before the Justices.

Provided always, That if any of the Penalties and Forfeitures aforesaid, be levied upon Conviction before the Justices of the Peace, One Moiety thereof shall be paid to the Poor of the Parish where the Offence was committed, and the other Moiety to the Informer.

None may be sued by Action and Information both for the same Offence.

Provided also, That in case any Action of Debt shall be brought against any Person, for any of the Penalties and Forfeitures aforesaid, such Person shall not be liable to any Conviction before the Justices of the Peace for the same Offence, whereby such Penalties and Forfeitures shall be incurred and made payable; nor in case of Information laid before the Justices, and Conviction thereon, shall the Person offending be liable to an Action of Debt, for the Penalties and Forfeitures incurred and made payable by the same Offence, for which such Person hath been convicted before the Justices.

Persons aggrieved by Order of Justices, may appeal to the next Quarter Sessions;

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any Person or Persons, who shall think him, her, or themselves aggrieved, by any Order of such Justices, to appeal to the next General or Quarter Sessions, to be holden for the County, Division, or Riding, where such Order shall be made; such Person or Persons so appealing, having first entered into a Recog-

entering into Recognizance, and giving 8 Days Notice.

nizance with sufficient Security before such Justices, to prosecute and abide by the Order or Orders that shall be made on such Appeal, and giving Eight Days Notice in Writing of such Appeal, to the Party or Parties in whose Favour such Order hath been made; and the Justices in their General or Quarter Sessions are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the Matter of such Appeal, and to make such Order, and to award such Costs and Damages, as to them in their Discretion shall

Order of Justices to be binding and conclusive.

seem reasonable; and to levy by their Order or Warrants, such Costs and Damages so awarded, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattles of any Person or Persons, who shall refuse to pay the same; and for want of sufficient Distress, to commit the Party or Parties to the Common Gaol of the said County, Division, or Riding, for any Time not exceeding Three Months, or until Satisfaction shall be made by the Party or Parties offending; and such Award or Order of the said Justices, at

Proceedings of the Justices not to be removed by *Certiorari*.

their General or Quarter Sessions shall be final; and no Proceedings of any such Justice or Justices out of Sessions, or of the Justices in their said General or Quarter Sessions, in pursuance of this Act, shall be liable to be

removed by Certiorari, or other Form or Process of Law; any thing in this Act, or in any other Act or Acts contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Limitation of Prosecutions.

Provided always, That all Prosecutions for Offences against this Act, shall be commenced within Three Months next after the Offence committed, and not afterwards.

FINIS.