ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LXVIII.

An Act to impower the Magiſtrates therein mentioned to ſettle and regulate the Wages of Perſons employed in the Silk Manufacture within their reſpective Juriſdictions.

WHEREAS it would be for the Benefit of Perſons employed in the Silk Manufacture, if the Magiſtrates were impowered to ſettle, between the Maſter Weavers and their Journeymen, the Price of Labour in the ſeveral Branches of the ſaid Manufacture; be it therefore 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 Firſt Day of July, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-three, the Wages and Prices for Work

Preamble.

After *July* 1, 1773, the Wages of Journeymen Weavers within *London* to be ſettled by the Lord Mayor, &c.

Work of the Journeymen Weavers within the City of London shall be settled, regulated, and declared by the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the said City; and in all Places in the County of Middlesex, by the Justices of the Peace for the said County; and in all Places within the City and Liberty of Westminster, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden in and for the said City and Liberty; and in all Places within the Liberty of the Tower of London, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden in and for the said Liberty, at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace respectively; and the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of London, and the said Justices of the Peace, are hereby respectively authorized and impowered, from Time to Time, upon Application being made to them for that Purpose, to settle, regulate, order, and declare, the Wages and Prices of Work of the Journeymen Weavers working within their respective Jurisdictions as aforesaid; and shall and may within the Space of Fourteen Days next after their making every such Order, cause the same to be printed and published, at the reasonable Expence of the Person or Persons applying for the same, Three Times, in any Two daily News-papers published in London or West-minster; which Publication shall be deemed and allowed to be sufficient Notice and Publication thereof; and from and after Publication thereof, all Weavers, and their Journeymen, are hereby strictly required to observe the same.

and in *Middlesex* and *Westminster*, &c. by the Justices of the Peace.

Orders to be published in Two News-papers Three Times, at the Expence of Persons applying for the same.

And be it further enacted, That if after the said First Day of July, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, any Master Weaver, within either of the aforesaid Districts, shall give more or less Wages, or pay larger or less Prices, to any of the Journeymen Weavers aforesaid, for their Work, than shall be settled or allowed as aforesaid, and shall be convicted of the said Offence before any Two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within either of the Districts or Jurisdictions aforesaid where the said Offence shall be committed, on the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, he shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds; to be levied

Master Weavers giving more or less Wages than shall be settled, as aforesaid, on Conviction, to forfeit 50*l.*

by

by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Offender's Goods; and the ſaid Penalty, when recovered, ſhall be paid into the Hands of the Maſter of the Weaver's Company, firſt deducting the Expence of ſuch Proſecution, to be diſtributed by him, in Conjunction with the Wardens of the ſaid Company, to any diſtreſſed Journeymen Weavers, or their Families, who ſhall have been laſt employed in either of the aforeſaid Juriſdictions, at their Diſcretion. Penalty how to be applied.

And be it further enacted, That if any Journeyman Weaver or Weavers within the Diſtricts aforeſaid, ſhall aſk, receive, or take more or leſs Wages, or larger or leſs Prices for their Work than ſhall be ſettled by the reſpective Quarter-ſeſſions, as aforeſaid; or ſhall enter into any Combination to raiſe the Wages or Prices of the ſaid Work, or for this Purpoſe ſhall decoy, ſolicit, or intimidate, any Journeyman or Journeymen Weavers within the Diſtricts aforeſaid, ſo that he or they quit their Maſters, for whom they ſhall then be employed; or ſhall aſſemble themſelves in any Numbers exceeding the Number of Ten, in order to frame or deliver Petitions or other Repreſentations, touching their Wages or Prices of Work, except to the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace, or to the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of London, at their reſpective Quarter-ſeſſions, and ſhall be convicted of any of the ſaid Offences, on the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, before any Two or more of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, within either of the Diſtricts or Juriſdictions aforeſaid where the Offence ſhall be committed, ſhall forfeit a Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings: And if the ſaid Forfeiture be not immediately paid, it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid Juſtices to commit the ſaid Offender to the Houſe of Correction, to hard Labour, for any Time not exceeding Three Months; the ſaid Forfeiture, when recovered, to be applied in the ſame Manner as the Forfeiture of Fifty Pounds aforementioned. Journeymen Weavers taking more or leſs Wages than ſhall be ſettled, or entering into Combinations, &c. ſhall forfeit 40 l. Penalties not being immediately paid, Offenders to be committed.

And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Two Juſtices of the Peace, within the Limits and Juriſdictions aforeſaid, on Information upon Oath made before them by any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, that there is Reaſon to ſuſpect that any Juſtices, on Suſpicion of Offences committed, may iſſue Summonſes neceſſary for Evidence.

Master or Journeyman Weaver, within the Districts or Jurisdictions aforesaid, hath been guilty of any of the Offences aforesaid, at Request of such Informant, to issue their Summons, in Writing, signed by any such Two Justices, requiring any Clerk, Foreman, Apprentice, Servant, or other Person or Persons employed or retained by such Person so suspected to have offended, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever, whose Attendance shall appear necessary for the Purpose of giving Evidence in the Premises, to attend and testify concerning the Premises: And if any Person so summoned shall not attend, and Proof shall be made of the Service of such Summons, either personally, or by leaving the same at the last or usual Place of Abode of such Person, it shall be lawful for such Two Justices, or any other Two Justices of the Peace acting for such County or Place, and they are hereby required (unless a reasonable Excuse be made for such Non-attendance to the Satisfaction of such Justices) to issue their Warrant, under their Hands and Seals, for the apprehending and bringing him or her before them, or some other Two or more Justices of the Peace acting for such County or Place, to be examined touching the Premises; and if any such Person so attending, or being brought before such Justices, shall refuse to be examined or give their Testimony touching the Premises, such Person shall by the said Justices be committed to the House of Correction for One Month, there to remain, unless he or she shall sooner submit to be examined and give Testimony, as the Law requires.

Persons refusing to attend, Justices may issue their Warrant.

or attending and refusing to be examined, may be committed.

And be it further enacted, That if any Master Weaver residing within the Limits aforesaid, shall, directly or indirectly, in any Manner whatsoever, retain or employ any Journeyman Weaver out of or beyond the Limits aforesaid, with Intent or Design to elude or evade this Act, or shall give, allow, or pay, or cause to be given, allowed, or paid, to such Journeyman, any more or less Wages than shall be settled, as aforesaid, every such Person shall, for every such Offence, forfeit Fifty Pounds; to be sued for by Action of Debt, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance,

Master Weavers within the Limits employing Journeymen beyond the Limits, with Design to elude this Act, &c. to forfeit 50 l.

Appearance, shall be allowed, and wherein the Ordinary Costs of the Suit shall be paid; One Moiety of which said Forfeiture, when recovered, shall belong and be paid to his Majesty and his Successors, and the other Moiety to the Person who shall sue for the same. Forfeitures how to be applied.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to fix, controul, or regulate, the Wages or Allowances to be paid to Servants in the said Business of a Weaver, bona fide retained and employed as Foremen. Not to fix the Wages of Foremen.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the passing of this Act, no Person or Persons, being Silk Weavers, residing within the Districts aforesaid, shall have in his or their Service at any One Time more than Two Apprentices, upon Pain of forfeiting for every Offence the Sum of Twenty Pounds; to be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, upon Conviction, on the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before Two Justices of the Peace within either of the Jurisdictions aforesaid where the said Offence shall be committed; and the said Penalty, when recovered, shall be paid into the Hands of the Master of the Weaver's Company, to be applied by him, as aforesaid, and the said Justices are hereby authorised and required to discharge every such Apprentice or Apprentices exceeding the Number of Two. No Silk Weavers residing within the Districts aforesaid to have more than Two Apprentices at One Time, under Penalty of 20*l.* Penalty to be applied as aforesaid.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person convicted before any Two Justices of the Peace, as before mentioned, to appeal to the Justices of the Peace assembled at the next General Quarter Sessions, or General Sessions to be held for the County, City or Place, wherein such Conviction shall be made, giving immediate Notice of such Appeal, and finding sufficient Security to the Satisfaction of such Justices for being personally present at such General Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, and for prosecuting the said Appeal with Effect, and abiding the Judgement of the Court thereupon by such Justices, in such General Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, shall finally hear and determine the Matter, and shall have Power Persons convicted before Two Justices, may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Determination of Justices shall be final.

to award reasonable Costs to either Party as to them shall seem just; and if such Conviction shall be affirmed at such General Quarter Sessions or General Sessions, such Appellant shall be committed to Prison for the Time specified in the said Conviction, and until Payment of the Costs so to be awarded.

Conviction affirmed at Quarter Sessions, Appellant may be committed.

Limitation of Actions.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Action shall be brought against any Justice of the Peace, Constable, Headborough, or other Officer, or against any other Person or Persons whomsoever, for any Matter or Thing whatsoever done or committed, under, by virtue, or in the Execution of this Act, unless such Action shall be brought within Six Calendar Months next after the doing or committing of such Matter or Thing.

Provided also, That if any Action or Suit shall hereafter be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons, for any Thing done under, by virtue, or in the Execution of this Act, such Person or Persons may plead the General Issue, and give this Act, and the Special Matter, in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff shall become nonsuited, or suffer Discontinuance, or forbear further Prosecution, or if Judgement shall be given for the Defendant or Defendants, such Defendant or Defendants shall recover his, her, or their full Costs, for which he, she, or they, shall have like Remedy as in Cases where Costs by Law are given to Defendants.

General Issue.

Full Costs.

Publick Act.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be taken and allowed to be a Publick Act in all Courts within this Kingdom; and all Judges and Justices of the Peace are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.

ANNO REGNI

GEORGII III.

REGIS

Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

DECIMO TERTIO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Weſtminſter*, the Tenth Day of *May*, *Anno Domini* 1768, in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

And from thence continued, by ſeveral Prorogations, to the Twenty-ſixth Day of *November*, 1772, being the Sixth Seſſion of the Thirteenth Parliament of *Great Britain*.

LONDON:
Printed by CHARLES EYRE and WILLIAM STRAHAN,
Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty.

M DCC LXXIII.

CH 69.