Anno quarto

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXVIII.

An Act to enable His Majesty, with the Advice of His Privy Council, to order the Importation of Provisions from *Ireland*, during the next Recess of Parliament, under certain Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned.



WHEREAS the Price of Provisions is at present high, and may become higher; that it greatly affects the Poor People, and will tend to hurt the Trade and Manufactures of this Kingdom, if not timely prevented; May it therefore 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 it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, during the next Recess of Parliament, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, from time to time to order, permit, and authorize, the free Importation of Salted Beef, Salted Pork, Bacon, and Butter, from Ireland into this Kingdom, as His Majesty, in His great Wisdom, shall think convenient and needful, and as the Necessity of the

Preamble.

His Majesty enabled with Advice of His Privy Council, to order the Importation of Salt Provisions from *Ireland*, during the Recess of Parliament;

Times may require, and in such Manner as his Majesty shall think fit to direct; any thing in any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

and all Persons are exempted from Payment of Duties, and from Penalties, &c. on Account of such Importation;

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons shall be and are hereby exempted, freed, and discharged, from the Payment of all Subsidies, Customs, Rates, Duties, and other Impositions, and also from all Penalties, Forfeitures, Payments, and Punishments, for or upon account of importing or bringing such Provisions from Ireland into this Kingdom, for such Time or Times as his Majesty, by and with the Advice of his Privy Council, shall, by his Royal Proclamation, think fit to order, permit, and authorize, to be imported; any Act or Acts of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding.

other than the following Duties to the Commissioners for the Duties on Salt;

And, to the Intent that the Revenue may not be prejudiced by the Importation of Salted Provisions from Ireland, be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid; That there shall be paid to such Officer as the Commissioners for the Duties on Salt for the time being shall appoint, at the Port in England into which any Salted Beef, Pork, Bacon, or Butter, shall, in pursuance of his Majesty's Royal Proclamation, be imported from Ireland as aforesaid, and before any Part thereof shall be delivered out to the Person or Persons to whom the same shall belong or be consigned, the Sum of

viz. 3*s.* 4*d. per* Barrel for Beef or Pork;

Three Shillings and Four Pence for every Barrel or Cask of Salted Beef or Pork, to be imported during the Continuance of this Act, containing Thirty two Gallons, and so in Proportion for any greater or lesser Quantity; and for every Hundred Weight of Salted Beef, called Dried Beef, or Dried Neats Tongues, or Dried Hogmeat, the Sum of One Shilling and Three Pence; and the Sum of Four Pence for every Hundred Weight of all such Salted Butter, and so in Proportion for any greater or less Quantity than an Hundred Weight; as or for Custom, or for Duty, on or in respect thereof;

1*s.* 3 *d. per* C. wt. for all Dried Beef, Neats Tongues, and Hogmeat; and 4*d. per* C. wt. for all Salted Butter;

which is to be paid over into the Exchequer as Part of the Duties on Salt.

the Money so arising by the Importation of the said Salted Beef, Pork, or Butter, to be paid into his Majesty's Exchequer as Part of the Duties on Salt, laid on by an Act in the Fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, and continued by several subsequent Acts.

Any of the said Provisions being landed without Duty is first paid,

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall, during the next Recess of Parliament, land any such Salted Beef, Pork, or Butter, or any Salt Beef called Dried Beef, or Dried Neats Tongues, or Dried Hogsmeat, into this

Kingdom from Ireland, before Payment of the Duty or Duties by this Act specified and directed, the same shall be forfeited and lost, and Twenty Shillings per Barrel for every Barrel thereof, and so in Proportion for any greater or less Quantity, to be recovered of the Importer or Proprietor thereof; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for any Person or Persons, being an Officer or Officers of the Customs, or of His Majesty's Duties upon Salt, to take and seize all such Commodities as shall be imported and landed, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, together with the Casks, Vessels, and Package containing the same; and that all such Penalties and Forfeitures shall be distributed in Manner following; that is to say, One Moiety thereof to the King, His Heirs and Successors, and the other Moiety thereof to the Person or Persons who shall seize, sue, or inform for the same; to be recovered by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster.

are forfeited, with 20 *s. per* Barrel.

Recovery and Application of the Penalties.

Provided always, That no Drawback shall be allowed or paid for any such Salted Beef or Pork, so imported into this Kingdom from Ireland, and which shall be exported from hence elsewhere.

No Drawback to be allowed on Exportation elsewhere.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action or Suit shall be commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the Defendant or Defendants, in any such Action or Suit, may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the Special Matter in Evidence, at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act: And if it shall appear so to have been done, the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and if the Plaintiff shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his Action after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if Judgement shall be given upon any Verdict or Demurrer against the Plaintiff, the Defendant or Defendants shall and may recover Treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have in other Cases by Law.

General Issue.

Treble Costs.

Provided always, and it is hereby declared to be the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That nothing herein contained shall extend to authorize the free Importation of Salted Beef, Salted Pork, Bacon, or Butter, from Ireland, unless when the Price of the best Ox Beef in Smithfield Market shall exceed Three Pence per Pound for the Four Quarters, and unless the Price of the best Pieces of such Beef shall exceed Four Pence per Pound

Restrictions, with respect to the granting Importation of Provisions from *Ireland*.

at Leaden Hall Market, and unless the Price of the best Pork shall exceed Four Pence per Pound, the best Bacon Seven Pence per Pound, and of the best Butter shall exceed Nine Pence per Pound, at Leaden Hall Market aforesaid.

No Order, &c. for Importation to take Place, before 1 *June*, 1764.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Order, Permission, or Authority, for the Importation of Butter from Ireland into this Kingdom, shall be given or granted, till after the First Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty four. 2

FINIS.