ANNO QUADRAGESIMO PRIMO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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C A P. XVII.

An Act to prohibit until the Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and one, and from thence to the End of Six Weeks next after the Commencement of the then next Seſſion of Parliament, any Perſon or Perſons from ſelling any Bread, which ſhall not have been baked Twenty-four Hours.

[31ſt *December* 1800.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to reduce, as much as poſſible, at the preſent Moment, the Conſumption of Wheat Flour: And whereas it appears that a conſiderable Saving would ariſe, if Bread was prohibited from being ſold until it had been baked a certain Time: 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 it ſhall not be lawful for any Baker, or other Perſon or Perſons, to ſell or offer or expoſe to Sale, or ſend out for Sale, or deliver on his or their Account, or on that of any other Perſon, any Bread, until the ſame ſhall have been baked Twenty-four Hours at the leaſt; and every Baker, or other Perſon or Perſons, who ſhall act contrary hereto, or offend herein, ſhall for every Offence forfeit and pay a Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings, nor leſs than Five Shillings, at the Diſcretion of the Magiſtrate, for every Loaf, Half Loaf, or any ſmaller or larger Part or Portion of a Loaf, or for every Cake or Roll, Muf-

No Perſon ſhall ſell or expoſe to Sale, any Bread, until it ſhall have been baked 24 Hours, on Penalty from 40 s. to 5 s. for every Loaf, Cake, Roll, Muffin, &c.

fin or Crumpet, or any Bread commonly known by the Name of *French Bread*, made of the Flour of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Peaſe, or Rice, ſo ſold, offered, expoſed to or ſent out for Sale; which Penalty ſhall and may be recovered before any One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the County, City, or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed, upon the Oath of One or more credible Witneſs or Witneſſes, who ſhall prove, to the Satisfaction of ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, that the ſaid Bread had not been baked Twenty-four Hours (which Oath ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices is and are hereby empowered to adminiſter) One Moiety whereof ſhall be paid to the Informer or Informers, and the other Moiety to the Poor of the Pariſh or Place where the Offence ſhall be committed; and if the ſaid Penalty ſhall not be forthwith paid, it ſhall and may be lawful for ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices, by Warrant under his or their Hand and Seal, to cauſe the ſaid Penalty to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Party offending, rendering the Overplus (if any) to the Owner or Owners of ſuch Goods and Chattels, after deducting the ſaid Penalty, and the Coſts and Charges of taking and making ſuch Diſtreſs and Sale.

Penalty may be recovered before a Juſtice, and divided between the Informer and the Poor of the Pariſh.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That the Twenty-four Hours previous to the Expiration of which it ſhall not be lawful for any Baker, or other Perſon or Perſons, to ſell Bread, or offer or expoſe it to or ſend it out for Sale, ſhall be computed from the Time at which ſuch Bread was taken out of the Oven or other Place uſed for the Purpoſe of baking or heating it: Provided alſo, That it ſhall not be lawful for any Baker, or other Perſon or Perſons employed by any ſuch Baker, to uſe any Art or Artifice whatever for preſerving the Heat or Moiſture in Bread longer than ſuch Heat or Moiſture would be preſerved by the fair Mode of keeping Bread in the ordinary Way of his Buſineſs; and every Baker or other Perſon or Perſons who ſhall act contrary to or offend herein, ſhall for every ſuch Offence be liable to the ſame Penalty, to be recovered in the ſame Mode, as is herein-before enacted in the Caſe of the Sale of new Bread.

The 24 Hours ſhall be computed from taking the Bread out of the Oven; and no Art ſhall be uſed for preſerving the Heat or Moiſture of the Bread.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſeveral Wardmote Inqueſts of the City of *London*, or ſuch other Perſon or Perſons as are authorized by any Act heretofore paſſed, to enter into any Houſe, Shop, Stall, Bakehouſe, Warehouſe, Outhouſe, or other Place of or belonging to any Baker or Seller of Bread, at all Times, within their reſpective Limits, to ſearch any Baſket, Wheelbarrow, Cart, or other Conveyance uſed by any Baker for the Purpoſe of carrying Bread to or for any Dealer therein, or Conſumer thereof; and in caſe any Bread ſhall be found in the ſame which ſhall not have been baked Twenty-four Hours at the leaſt, all ſuch Bread, which ſhall be ſo found in any ſuch Baſket, Wheelbarrow, Cart, or other Conveyance, ſhall be deemed and taken as Bread expoſed to Sale within the Intent and Meaning of this Act; and in caſe ſuch Wardmote Inqueſts or ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo authorized as aforeſaid ſhall not be able to diſcover the Owner or Owners of ſuch Bread, then the ſaid Wardmote Inqueſt, or any Four or more of the Perſons compoſing the ſame, or ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo authorized as aforeſaid, ſhall and may ſeize ſuch Bread, and after Seizure thereof ſhall, with all convenient Speed, cauſe the ſame to be carried to any Juſtice or Juſtices of the Peace for the County, City, or Place where the

The Wardmote Inqueſts of *London*, or authorized Perſons may enter Shops, &c. and ſearch Baſkets, &c. uſed for carrying out Bread, and if any be found therein not baked 24 Hours, and if the Owner cannot be found, it may be ſeized and carried before a Juſtice, who may diſpoſe thereof as he ſhall think fit.

the Offence ſhall be committed, who ſhall and may diſpoſe thereof, as he or they in his or their Diſcretion, ſhall think fit.

Penalty for obſtructing any Search, or Seizing Bread.

IV. And be it further enacted, That if any Perſon or Perſons ſhall wilfully obſtruct or hinder any Search herein-before authorized to be made, or the Seizure of any Bread which ſhall be found on any ſuch Search, or the taking or carrying away the ſame, he, ſhe, or they ſo doing or offending ſhall, upon being convicted thereof before any ſuch laſt-mentioned Magiſtrate, forfeit and pay for every Offence any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds nor leſs than Ten Shillings, as the Magiſtrate or Magiſtrates, before whom ſuch Offender or Offenders ſhall be convicted, ſhall think fit to order.

Act not to extend to Bread for the Uſe of Troops on their March, or within 24 Hours after Arrival at Quarters.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing herein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend, to any Baker or other Perſon who ſhall ſell or deliver, or offer or expoſe to Sale, any Bread which ſhall not have been baked Twenty-four Hours, to or for the Uſe of any of His Majeſty's Troops on their March, or within Twenty-four Hours after their Arrival at any Quarter, Barrack, or Cantonment.

Appeal may be made to the Quarter Seſſions, who may finally determine the Matter.

VI. Provided nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That all and every Perſon or Perſons who ſhall think him, her, or themſelves aggrieved, by the Judgement or Determination of any ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices as aforeſaid, in reſpect of any pecuniary Penalty, may appeal to the Juſtices of the Peace for the County Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place, where ſuch Judgement ſhall be given, at their then next General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace, unleſs ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace ſhall happen to be holden within Six Days next after any ſuch Conviction, and in ſuch Caſe, ſuch Perſon or Perſons may appeal to the next ſubſequent General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace which ſhall be holden for any ſuch County, Riding, Diviſion, City, Liberty, or Place; but no ſuch Appeal ſhall be received, heard, or determined, unleſs the Appellant or Appellants ſhall firſt enter into a Recognizance, with Two ſufficient Sureties, before ſuch Juſtice or Juſtices ſo convicting as aforeſaid, in the Sum of Twenty Pounds each, to appear and proſecute every ſuch Appeal with Effect; and the Juſtices of the Peace at ſuch General or Quarter Seſſions of the Peace are hereby authorized and required, on every ſuch Appeal being made, and on reaſonable Notice thereof given to the other Party, finally to hear and determine the Matter of every ſuch Appeal, and to make ſuch Order and to award ſuch Coſts therein as they in their Diſcretion ſhall ſee meet, and which ſaid Order and Determination ſhall be final and concluſive to all Parties, and no *Certiorari* ſhall be allowed to remove any ſuch Proceedings or Determination.

Complaints for Offences committed within certain Limits, ſhall be heard at the neareſt Publick Office.

VII. And be it further enacted, That every Complaint which ſhall be made of any Offence againſt this Act, alledged to have been committed within thoſe Parts of the Counties of *Middleſex* and *Surrey* which lie within the Bills of Mortality, or in the Pariſhes of *Saint Mary-le-bone* and *Pancras*, in the ſaid County of *Middleſex*, ſhall be heard and determined by ſome One or more of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, acting in and for the ſaid Counties, at ſuch of the Publick Offices, eſtabliſhed by virtue of an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-ſecond Year of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Adminiſtration of the Office*

of

of a Juſtice of the Peace, in ſuch Parts of the Counties of Middleſex *and* Surrey *as lie in and near the Metropolis, and for the more effectual Prevention of Felonies*; and further continued by virtue of an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, as ſhall be next or near to the Place in which ſuch Offence ſhall be alledged to have been committed.

Proſecutions ſhall be commenced within a limited Time.

VIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no Perſon ſhall be convicted in Manner aforeſaid, for any of the before mentioned Offences, unleſs the Proſecution, in order to ſuch Conviction, be commenced within Three Days next after the Offence committed.

Continuance of Act.

IX. And be it further enacted, That this Act ſhall continue in force until the Firſt Day of *October* One thouſand eight hundred and one, and from thence to the End of Six Weeks next after the Commencement of the then next Seſſion of Parliament.

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