Anno ſexto

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXII.

An Act to regulate the Loading of Ships with Coals in the Ports of *Newcaſtle* and *Sunderland*.



WHEREAS the preſent Methods of loading Coal Ships in the Ports of Newcaſtle and Sunderland, are inconvenient to the Coal Trade; 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 First Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſix, all Fitters, Agents, or others, vending Sea Coals, and loading Ships with the ſame, at the Ports of Newcaſtle and Sunderland, ſhall keep regular and true Liſts of Ships entered at their reſpective Offices for

Preamble.

Regular and true Liſts to be kept and hung up by the Fitters and Agents, of the Ships entered at their reſpective Offices.

for loading of all such Coals as they usually vend; which Lists shall be hung up or placed in some conspicuous Part of the respective Offices, in order that the same may be inspected by any Master or Mate of a Ship applying for the same; and when the Master or Mate of any Ship which shall then be past or within Two Miles of Tinmouth Bar, or within Two Miles of the Port or Harbour of Sunderland, as the Case may be, shall apply to the Office of any such Fitter, Agent, or Vender of Coals, and make a Tender in Cash, or in Bank Post Bills, payable Seven Days after Sight, to the Amount of the Coals at the respective Prices the several Sorts of such Coals are then sold at, together with the usual Charges of carrying the same from the Staiths to the Ship; such Ship shall be immediately entered in the List of such Fitter, Agent, or Vender of Coals as aforesaid, next after the last Ship which shall then be entered in such List, and shall be loaded in its due Turn by such Fitter, Agent, or Vender, at the Port of Newcastle or Sunderland respectively; or if the Master or Mate of any Ship, who shall so apply within the Port of Newcastle, shall produce Lightermens Notes or Bills of Exchange to a sufficient Amount, and desire Time, not exceeding Two Hours after the Bank at Newcastle shall be open, in order to convert the same into Cash, such Ship shall be nevertheless immediately entered upon such List; and if the Money or such Bank Post Bills as aforesaid, to the Amount of the Loading of Coals, and the Charges as aforesaid, shall be brought or tendered to the said Fitter, Agent, or Vender, of Coals within the Time aforesaid, such Ship shall have the same Turn as it would have been intitled to if Cash had been tendered on the first Application of the Master or Mate thereof, in manner aforesaid; and the Master or Mate who shall have his Ship entered in any such List as aforesaid, or be entitled to a Loading of Coals from any Fitter, Agent, or Vender, of Coals, by means of the Provisions aforesaid, shall be obliged to load his Ship with such Fitter, Agent, or Vender, in whose List such Ship shall have been entered, or such Loading applied for as aforesaid; and if such Master or Mate chuses to alter the Sort of Coals for Exportation, he shall be at Liberty so to do, provided he loads with the same Fitter, Agent, or Vender, at the usual Price; and if any Fitter, Agent, or Vender, of Coals at the said Ports, or either of them, shall neglect or omit to keep such List in Manner herein before described, or shall refuse

Provisions and Regulations with respect to the entering Ships in Course.

Ship to be laid with the Fitter or Agent, &c. with whom it is entered.

Provisions with respect to altering the Sort of Coals.

Fitter not keeping such List;

fuch Inſpection thereof to any Maſter or Mate of any Ship applying for the ſame, at any Time between the Hours of Seven in the Morning and Seven at Night; or ſhall refuſe or omit to enter or load any ſuch Ship, upon the Conditions aforeſaid, ſo far as the ſaid Conditions relate to the ſaid Ports reſpectively; or ſhall wilfully or unneceſſarily delay the loading and diſpatching of any ſuch Ship; or if any Maſter or Mate of any ſuch Ship ſhall enter the ſame for any One Turn with more than One Fitter, Agent, or Lender, of Coals as aforeſaid; or ſhall load ſuch Ship with any other Fitter, Agent, or Lender, than where ſuch Ship was entered for that Turn; every ſuch Fitter, Agent, or Lender, and every ſuch Maſter or Mate of any ſuch Ship, ſhall, for every Offence reſpectively, forfeit and pay the Sum of One hundred Pounds; One Moiety thereof to His Majeſty, His Heirs, and Succeſſors, and the other Moiety to ſuch Perſon or Perſons who ſhall be injured by ſuch Offence, and ſhall ſue for the ſame in any of His Majeſty's Courts of Record at Weſtminſter, within the Space of Six Calendar Months after the Offence committed.

or refuſing Inſpection thereof;

or not loading upon the Conditions aforeſaid;

or cauſing unneceſſary Delay; forfeit 100*l.*

Maſter acting contrary to the Rules here preſcribed, forfeits a like Sum.

Provided always nevertheleſs, and be it further enacted, That no Fitter of the ſaid Port of Sunderland ſhall be compelled or obliged to take upon his Liſt, or load in Turn, any Ship exceeding the Burthen of Sixteen Keels; and when the Owner or Maſter, having the Care of any Ship entered in ſuch Liſt, ſhall have taken in as many Coals in the ſaid Harbour as he ſhall think fit, every ſuch Fitter ſhall be at Liberty to load the next Ship in Turn on his Liſt, within the ſaid Harbour, and ſo on until ſome One or more of ſuch Ships ſhall have ſailed out of the ſaid Harbour into the Road, which Ships ſhall then be loaded up in the ſaid Road in Turn as they ſtand in ſuch Liſt, as ſoon as the Weather will permit; and the Owner or Maſter, having the Care of any ſuch Ship ſo lying and loading up in the Road, ſhall be anſwerable to the Fitter loading up ſuch Ship, for the Loſs or Damage of any Keel or Keels, and the Coals on board them, ſent off to load up ſuch Ship, as has been cuſtomary.

Directing the Courſe of loading Ships at *Sunderland*.

And whereas the Iron Manufacture near Newcaſtle, belonging to Miſtreſs Crowley and Company, have large ſtanding Contracts for ſerving His Majeſty's Navy with Stores of ſundry Kinds; and that their Three Ships (about One hundred and ſixty Tons Burthen each)

Mrs. *Crowley* and Company's Ships to take in Coals without waiting their Turns.

which bring a few Coals at Bottom, may not be detained, which may be of great Detriment to the Government Service, they are hereby excepted, and permitted to have what Coals they want for Ballast, while they are employed in the above Service, as soon as they have Occasion to order them, without waiting their Turn in Rotation.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall continue in Force for Seven Years, and shall be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be, a publick Act; and be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons whatsoever, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.