Anno ſexto

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XXIII.

An Act to amend an Act made in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for repealing ſeveral Laws relating to the Manufacture of Woollen Cloth in the County of* York; *and alſo ſo much of ſeveral other Laws as preſcribes particular Standards of Width and Length of ſuch Woollen Cloths; and for ſubſtituting other Regulations of the Cloth Trade within the Weſt Riding of the ſaid County; for preventing Frauds in certifying the Contents of the Cloth; and for preſerving the Credit of the ſaid Manufacture at the Foreign Market.*

WHEREAS the Act made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of his preſent Majeſty, intituled, An Act for repealing ſeveral Laws relating to the Manufacture of Woollen Cloth in the County of *York*; and alſo ſo much of ſeveral other Laws as preſcribes particular Standards of Width and Length of ſuch Woollen Cloths; and for ſubſtituting other Regulations of the Cloth Trade within the Weſt Riding of the ſaid County; for preventing Frauds in certifying the Contents of the Cloth; and for preſerving the Credit of

Preamble, reciting Act 5 *Geo.* III.

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of the said Manufacture at the Foreign Market; hath, in some Respects, been found to be inconvenient to the Dealers in the said Trade and Manufactory, and not sufficient or effectual to remove or remedy some of the Abuses intended to be thereby prevented, and which still continue to be practised in the said Trade; and in regard several Persons concerned in the said Trade and Manufactory may inadvertently and unavoidably become subject and liable to divers Penalties and Forfeitures thereby directed to be levied, to the great Loss and Damage of divers innocent Persons, and the Discouragement of the said Manufactory; wherefore, for continuing so much of the said Act as is apprehended to be beneficial, and for explaining and amending the same, so as more effectually to support and preserve a Trade so advantageous, and of so great Importance to this Kingdom, and for repealing such of the Clauses and Provisions therein contained, as are found to be burthensome to the said Trade, and not effectual for preserving the Credit thereof, or preventing the Frauds intended to be prevented; 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 the Justices of the Peace for the said West Riding of the said County of York (not being Dealers in Woollen Cloth, or Occupiers of any Fulling-mill) at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Bradford, in and for the said Riding, next after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, or at some Adjournment of the same, and at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden next after Midsummer yearly at Bradford, in and for the said Riding, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required to chuse, nominate, and appoint, such and so many Persons of good Character and Repute (having been brought up in the Manufacture of Woollen Cloth in the said Riding, and being under the Age of Sixty Years) to be Searchers or Measurers of Cloth at the Fulling-mills, and to be Inspectors and Supervisors for the Purposes in the said former Act mentioned, as they in their Discretion shall think proper; which said Searchers or Measurers, Inspectors and Supervisors respectively, shall have all the same Powers and Authorities, and be respectively subject to the same Rules, Limitations, and Restrictions, as in and by the said Act of the Fifth Year of His present Majesty's Reign, are respectively declared, given, appointed, or limited, except as

Justices to appoint Mill Searchers, Inspectors, and Supervisors.

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is herein after, by this preſent Act, otherwiſe ordered, directed, or provided for.

Searchers to meaſure Cloths, and ſeal them.

And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Searchers or Meaſurers of Cloth at the Mills, to be choſen, appointed, and ſtationed, by virtue of this and the ſaid former Act, ſhall, and they are hereby authorized and required, at their reſpective Fulling-mills, where they ſhall be reſpectively ſtationed or placed, to meaſure all the Cloths and half Cloths which ſhall be there milled reſpectively, at the reſpective Times, and in Manner in the ſaid former Act mentioned and appointed; and every ſuch Searcher and Meaſurer ſhall, on one End of every ſuch Cloth, before it ſhall be carried from the Mill, affix and rivet ſuch Seal of Lead as in the ſaid former Act is mentioned, and ſtamp, in Words and Figures plainly to be read and diſtinguiſhed, upon every ſuch Rivet, his Name, and the Name of the Mill where he is ſo ſtationed; and upon the Reſidue of ſuch Seal, the Length and Breadth of every ſuch Cloth, together with the Number of each of ſuch Cloths milled at ſuch Mill ſucceſſively, beginning at Number One, and proceeding progreſſively as in the ſaid former Act is mentioned.

Penalty on Mill Searcher ſtamping falſely.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any of the ſaid Inſpectors or Superviſors ſhall find any Cloth, or End or half Cloth, falſely ſtamped by any Meaſurer or Searcher of Broad Woollen Cloth, above One Inch in Breadth in more than One Third Part of the Length thereof, or above half a Yard in Length, ſuch Inſpector or Superviſor ſhall, within Seven Days after the ſame ſhall be diſcovered, give Information thereof to One of His Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Riding, or any Corporation within the ſame where ſuch Offence ſhall be committed (not being a Dealer in Woollen Cloth, or Occupier of any Fulling-mill) and on Conviction of ſuch Meaſurer or Searcher, before any ſuch Juſtice of the Peace as aforeſaid, ſuch Searcher or Meaſurer ſhall forfeit and pay for every ſuch Offence the Sum of Ten Shillings, to be recovered as any other Penalty is hereby directed to be recovered.

Merchant ſuſpecting Cloths, may wet them.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if the Merchant or Buyer of any ſuch Cloth ſhall ſuſpect the real and true Lengths and Breadths of ſuch Cloth not to be the ſame as ſtamped on the Seal affixed to ſuch Cloth by the Meaſurer or Searcher at the Mill as aforeſaid; then, and in ſuch Caſe, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Merchant or Buyer of ſuch Cloth, within Forty Days

next after the Sale and Delivery of such Cloth (and before the same shall have been raised, rowed, dressed, dyed, or put in Water) to put such Cloth into cold Water for any Time not exceeding Four Hours; and after the same shall be fully wet and taken out of such Water, to hang the same across a plain Rail or Horse-tree, to be provided by such Merchant or Buyer, for any Time not less than Two Hours, and not more than Four Hours; and then immediately to cause the same to be measured by some sworn Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor: And if upon such Admeasurement last mentioned, there shall be found a less or smaller Quantity of Cloth in Length, or less or smaller Quantity in Breadth in more than One Third Part of the Length thereof, than is mentioned on any of the Seals affixed to such Cloth by any Searcher, Measurer, or Supervisor, who before measured the same; in every such Case, the Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured such Cloth, shall and he is hereby required, within Three Days next after such last Admeasurement, to give Information to One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Riding, or any Corporation within the same (not being a Dealer in Woollen Cloth, or Occupier of any Fulling-mill) that the Searcher, Measurer, or Supervisor, who before measured and stamped the said Cloth, did wilfully and knowingly affix such false and fraudulent Seals to such Cloth; and such Measurer, Searcher, or Supervisor, being thereof convicted before such Justice, upon the Oath of such Measurer, Searcher, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured the said Cloth, or of any other credible Witness, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit and pay the respective Penalties and Sums following; that is to say, For the first Inch in Breadth, or Half Yard in Length, that such Cloth or End of Cloth shall fall short of the Measure stamped and marked on the Seals thereto by him affixed, the Sum of Five Shillings; and for every other Inch in Breadth, or Half Yard in Length, so over stamped, the further Sum of Ten Shillings: The said Penalties, after deducting thereout the Costs and Charges of such Prosecution and Conviction, to be paid and applied, One Moiety to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Treasurer of the said West Riding: And in case any Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured such Cloth, shall fail or neglect, by the Space of Three Days next after such last Admeasurement, to give such Information as aforesaid; then, and in every such Case, such Searcher, Measurer,

Penalty for fraudulent Sealing.

Inspector,

Inspector, or Supervisor, being convicted before any such Justice as aforesaid, of having wilfully failed or neglected to give such Information for the Space of Three Days as aforesaid, shall, for such Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Forty Shillings, and shall from thenceforth be for ever disabled to hold, exercise, or enjoy, any Office under or by virtue of this Act.

Where false Seals are found, Inspector, &c. to fix new Seals, which shall be the Rule of Payment, and the Seller to forfeit Double the Deficiency, or take the Cloth back.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all such Cases, upon such Admeasurement of any such Cloth as aforesaid, where the same shall be found to be of less Length or of less Breadth, for above One Third Part of the Length thereof, than shall be mentioned on the Seal or Seals thereto affixed, by the Searcher, Measurer, or Supervisor, who measured and stamped the same, or by the Maker of such Cloth; then, and in every such Case, the Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured the same, shall, immediately upon such Admeasurement, affix on every such Cloth, or End of Cloth, a new Seal or new Seals of Lead, and rivet the same, and shall stamp, or cause to be impressed upon every such Rivet, his own Name, adding thereto the Words Inspector or Supervisor; and upon the same Seal, Words, or Letters and Figures, denoting the true Length of every such Cloth, or End of Cloth (accounting Thirty seven Inches to the Yard in Length) and the Breadth thereof between the Lists, in Inches, at the Time of, and according to such Admeasurement; and that the Length and Number of Yards, by such Measurer, Searcher, Inspector, or Supervisor, so stamped on such Seals as aforesaid, shall be the Rule of Payment for such Cloth by the Merchant or Buyer thereof; save only that such Merchant or Buyer (in order to discourage the vending or exposing to Sale of any such Cloth with such defective or fraudulent Seals) shall and may, and he is hereby authorized and impowered, to deduct and retain to himself, out of the Price of such Cloth upon which the Maker, Searcher, Measurer, or Supervisor, shall have fixed such defective and fraudulent Seals as aforesaid, double the Value or Amount of so many Yards, or Parts of a Yard thereof, out of the Number of Yards in Length, so stamped upon such Seals, by such Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured and stamped the same as aforesaid, as the said Cloth, or End of Cloth, shall fall short in Quantity of the Length and Breadth respectively impressed on the former fraudulent Seal so affixed by the Maker or Seller thereof; unless the Maker or Seller of such Cloth shall, within Three Days next after Notice

tice of such Deficiency to him given by the Merchant or Buyer of such Cloth, accept the same again, and repay to the Merchant or Buyer thereof, all such Sum and Sums of Money as such Maker or Seller of such Cloth shall have received in Payment, or Part of Payment for such Cloth, together with such reasonable Expences as such Merchant or Buyer shall have necessarily expended or been put unto, for or upon account of such defective Cloth or Cloths.

Inspector or, Supervisor, &c. found guilty of stamping falsely,

And it is hereby further enacted, That in case any Merchant, or Buyer or Seller of Cloth, shall be dissatisfied with any Admeasurement to be made by any such last mentioned Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, as aforesaid, and shall have Cause to suspect the true Length and Breadth of any Cloth, or End of Cloth, so measured by such last-mentioned Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, not to agree with the Seal or Seals by him thereto affixed; then, and in such Case, such Merchant, Buyer or Seller respectively, shall and may, within Seven Days after any such Admeasurement so suspected shall be made, give Information thereof, before One or more Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Riding, or any Corporation within same (not being Dealers in Woollen Cloth) and every such Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, having wilfully or fraudulently measured such Cloth, and being convicted of such Offence, upon the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any such Justice or Justices as aforesaid, (which Oath such Justice or Justices is hereby impowered to administer) shall, for such Offence, forfeit and pay for the first Inch in Breadth, or Half Yard in Length, that such Cloth, or End of Cloth, shall exceed or fall short of the Measure stamped and marked on the Seals thereto by him affixed, the Sum of Twenty Shillings: And in case such Cloth, or End of Cloth, shall exceed or fall short more than Two Inches in Breadth, or One Yard in Length, of the Measure stamped and marked thereon by such Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor; then such Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, upon such Conviction as aforesaid, shall forfeit and lose his Office, and be discharged therefrom by such Justice or Justices, before whom he shall be so convicted, and shall, from thenceforth, be for ever disabled to hold, exercise, or enjoy any Office under or by virtue of this Act.

on Information and Conviction,

to be subject to a Penalty,

and lose his Office.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That in caſe any Inſpector ſhall have Reaſon to ſuſpect that any Cloth or Cloths ſhall be in the Poſſeſſion of any Merchant, Buyer, Dreſſer, or Cloth-worker, which hath or have not been truly ſtamped and meaſured at the Fulling-mill; that then, and in ſuch Caſe, the ſaid Inſpector ſhall and may give Notice to ſuch Merchant, Buyer, Dreſſer, or Cloth-worker, of ſuch his Suſpicion, deſcribing the Cloth or Cloths by the Maker's Name or Seal thereon reſpectively, which he ſo ſuſpects to be unduly ſtamped; after which Notice ſo given as aforeſaid, ſuch Merchant, Dreſſer, or Cloth-worker, ſhall give Two Hours Notice to ſuch Inſpector of the Time or Times at which he intends to put ſuch Cloth or Cloths into Water, in order that ſuch Inſpector may attend the wetting and meaſuring of ſuch Cloth or Cloths; and if ſuch Merchant, Dreſſer, Buyer, or Cloth-worker, ſhall, without or contrary to ſuch Notice, put ſuch Cloth or Cloths into Water, and be thereof legally convicted, he ſhall forfeit, for every ſuch Offence, the Sum of Twenty Shillings.

Where Inſpector ſuſpects Frauds in Cloth, he may require to ſee the ſame put in Water.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any Superviſor or Inſpector ſhall wilfully refuſe or neglect to attend for the Purpoſe of meaſuring and ſtamping any Cloth, or End of Cloth as aforeſaid, for the Space of Two Hours after due Notice given to him in that Behalf, he or they ſo neglecting or refuſing, ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings, to be recovered and applied in Manner after mentioned.

Penalty on Superviſor or Inſpector refuſing to meaſure when called upon.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That every Searcher, Meaſurer, Inſpector, and Superviſor, to be appointed by virtue and in purſuance of this or the ſaid former Act, ſhall, before he enters upon the Execution of his Office, at his own Expence, give and execute a Bond to the Treaſurer of the ſaid Weſt Riding for the time being, with a Surety to be approved by the Juſtices appointing him to the ſaid Office, in the Penalty of Fifty Pounds, conditioned for the duly accounting for, and paying the Money by him, from time to time, to be received by Virtue of and in the Execution of his Office.

Inſpector, &c. to give Security for making due Accounts.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall not be lawful for any Inſpector or Superviſor, to be appointed by virtue of this or the ſaid former Act, at any Time hereafter, to enter into any Houſe, Warehouſe, or Outhouſe, of any Merchant or Merchants, Dreſſer or Dreſſers, or any other Dealer in Cloth (unleſs ſuch Places ſhall be made uſe of for dreſſing,

Inſpector or Superviſor not to enter Merchants Houſes or Warehouſes (except where Cloth is there dreſſed) to examine or ſearch for Cloths.

sing, tentering, or keeping of wet or undressed Cloth) under Pretence of searching for, or examining any Woollen Cloth, which he shall suspect to be falsely stamped, or unduly stretched or strained, by Virtue or under Colour of this or any former Act of Parliament; or to search or examine any Cloth after the same shall be put up in Papers for pressing, or sent to be frized; or otherwise have been fully manufactured, or fitted for Exportation or Home Consumption; any thing in the said recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

nor to examine Cloths ready for the Press, or sent to frize.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever shall willingly take off, alter, or counterfeit, deface, obliterate, or cut out, any Seal or Seals of Lead, hereby, or by the said former Act, directed to be fixed and riveted to every or any Cloth or half Cloth, or the Figures, Letters, and Words thereon stamped, made, or set, or therein woven or sewed, before the Cloth be put in Papers for the Press, or into the Frizing-mill to be frized; or if any Inspector or Supervisor shall, at any Time after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, find any Woollen Cloth, after the Times herein directed for sealing the same, without the Seal or Seals hereby, or by the said former Act, directed to be put thereon; or find such Seal or Seals defaced, counterfeited, or altered, (except such Seal or Seals has or have been accidentally lost, or maliciously taken off); or shall find any such Cloth, or End of Cloth, which shall appear by the Mark, Stamp, or Seal, affixed by the Searcher, Measurer, Inspector, or Supervisor, who last measured the same, to be overstretched or strained, either in Breadth or Length, beyond the Dimensions allowed of and provided by this present Act; or that the Loom Mark, specifying or denoting the Name and Place of Abode of the Maker of such Cloths, shall be cut out or altered; in such Case every Person or Persons so offending, or the Merchant, Dresser, Clothier, or Owner, in whose Custody any such Cloth without Seals, (except as aforesaid) or with the Seals, or Name, and Place of Abode, of such Maker, defaced, cut out, or obliterated, or so overstretched or strained, shall be found, being thereof legally convicted, for every such Offence shall forfeit such Sum of Money, not exceeding the Sum of Forty Shillings, nor less than Twenty Shillings, as to the Justice or Justices, before whom he shall be convicted, shall seem proper and requisite.

Penalty on Persons taking off, &c. Seals, or the Maker's Name, or for having Cloth in their Custody without Seals, or with the Seals cut off, &c. or Cloth overstretched, &c.

And

And be it further enacted, That any Perſon or Perſons, againſt whom any Information ſhall be made, by any Merchant, Buyer, Seller, Owner, or Dreſſer of Cloth, for any Offence or Offences committed againſt this Act, by falſe ſealing or ſtamping any Cloth or Cloths, ſhall and may, and are hereby authorized and impowered, within Two Days after Notice of ſuch Information to him or them given, to go to the Houſe of ſuch Merchant, Owner, or Dreſſer, of Cloth, in ſuch Information mentioned, and requeſt to ſee the ſaid Cloth, to examine whether the Charge alledged in ſuch Information be juſt, and whether any Frauds have been committed by the Merchant, Dreſſer, or Owner, of the ſame; and that upon the Merchant, Dreſſer, Buyer, or Owner, of ſuch Cloth, refuſing to permit and ſuffer ſuch Offender or Offenders to ſee or examine ſuch Cloth as aforeſaid, (unleſs the ſame ſhall, before that Time, be put in Papers for preſſing, or ſent to be frized) ſuch Proſecution ſo commenced againſt ſuch Offender or Offenders ſhall ceaſe, and any Conviction to be made thereupon ſhall be void and of none Effect; and in caſe of wilful Refuſal, by any Merchant or Buyer, ſo to ſhew ſuch Cloth, ſuch Merchant or Buyer ſhall loſe all Benefit of Deduction out of the Price of ſuch Cloth as aforeſaid.

Perſons charged with any Offence, may examine Cloth in the Merchants Hands; and on Refuſal, Proſecution to ceaſe.

And whereas by the ſaid Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, every Clothier and Maker of ſuch Cloth as aforeſaid, is required, at the Time of making thereof, to weave or ſew into the Head of the Cloth, in diſtinct Letters or Words, plain to be read, at Length, the Name and Place of Abode of ſuch Clothier and Maker, under the Penalty of Twenty Shillings for expoſing the ſame to Sale, without having ſuch Name and Place of Abode in Words at Length ſewed into ſuch Cloth, which has been the Occaſion of ſeveral poor Clothiers being convicted for falſe ſpelling or abbreviating their Name and Place of Abode, to their great Loſs and Diſcouragement; wherefore, to prevent as much as poſſible any ſuch hard and ſevere Proſecutions which ſuch Clothier is now ſubject to, be it further enacted, That every Clothier and Maker of ſuch Cloth as aforeſaid, who ſhall weave or ſew into the Head of every Cloth, and End of Cloth, his Name and Place of Abode, either in diſtinct Letters or Words, or in ſome common or known uſual Abbreviation, ſufficient to be read or underſtood, before he ſhall expoſe the ſame to Sale, ſhall in ſuch Caſe not be ſubject to or liable to be proſecuted for the Penalty inflicted by the ſaid Act for not inſerting the ſame in diſtinct Letters or Words

Makers of Cloth to weave their Names therein at Length, or in a common Abbreviation.

Words plain to be read at Length; any thing in the said Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And whereas by the said last mentioned Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, the Justices of the Peace for the said West Riding are impowered, at their General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held yearly after Easter, to make and issue such Orders and Directions to the several Officers to be appointed by virtue of the said Act, for the more effectual Execution thereof, as to them shall seem meet; which Power is apprehended to be of no Use to the said Trade or Manufacture, but may prove inconvenient to the Dealers therein; therefore be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Power given by the said Act, to the Justices in Sessions, to make such Orders and Regulations as aforesaid, shall from henceforth be, and the same is hereby, revoked and repealed, and declared to be void and of no Force or Effect.

Power given by former Act to Justices at Quarter Sessions to make Orders for executing the Act, repealed.

Penalty on over-stretching or straining Cloth.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever, after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, shall stretch or strain, or cause or procure to be stretched or strained, any Whole or Long Cloth, or End or Half Cloth, more than One Yard (consisting of Thirty seven Inches) in every Twenty Yards of the Length thereof, and in the like Proportion for Cloths of greater or less Length, or more than One Inch in every Twelve Inches of the Breadth thereof, above or beyond the Length or Breadth of such Cloth marked and denoted upon the Stamp or Seal thereon fixed by the Searcher, Measurer, Supervisor, or Inspector, who last measured the same as aforesaid; then, and in such Case, every Person so offending, and being thereof convicted by the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before One or more such Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said Riding, or of some Corporation within the same, not being a Dealer in the Woollen Manufacture, or Farmers or Occupiers of a Fulling-mill as aforesaid, shall, for the First Half Yard in Length such Cloth, or End of Cloth, shall be so over-stretched, forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Shillings; and also for every Quarter of a Yard above such Half Yard, Ten Shillings; and for the First Inch in Breadth such Cloth, or End of Cloth, shall be over-stretched or strained, forfeit and pay the Sum of Five Shillings; and also for every Inch above the First Inch, Ten Shillings; which said Sums shall be recovered and applied in the same Manner as the other Penalties are herein directed to be recovered and applied.

And whereas by the laſt mentioned Act, the uſing of Cards made with Wire, or with Wire Teeth, or any other Metal, in dreſſing of Cloth, is prohibited under the Penalty of Forty Shillings; but it has been found uſeful in the Dreſſing of Cloth, and without damaging the ſame, to make uſe of Wire Cards, commonly called Fine Hatters Cards, in the Striking or Plaining of Cloth upon the Tenters, for the better bedding or laying the Wool; it is therefore enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Perſon or Perſons, in the Striking or Plaining of Cloth upon the Tenters only, to make uſe of ſuch Cards, called Fine Hatters Cards, for the better laying the Wool, and manufacturing the ſaid Cloth, without being ſubject to, or liable to, any Proſecution for the ſaid Penalty, in the ſaid Act provided, for making uſe of Wire Cards in the Dreſſing of Cloth.

Hatters Cards may be uſed for ſtriking Cloths upon the Tenters only.

And it is hereby further enacted, provided, and declared, That in caſe any of the Officers to be appointed, or who ſhall hold, exerciſe, or enjoy, any Office or Place under or by virtue of this or the ſaid former Act, ſhall keep a Publick Houſe for the ſelling of Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, or ſhall follow or be concerned in the making, buying, or ſelling, any Wool, Woollen Manufactures, or Goods, commonly made uſe of in Dying; or in caſe any ſuch Officer or Officers, Perſon or Perſons, to be appointed by virtue of this or the ſaid former Act, ſhall be guilty of any Misbehaviour or Neglect of Duty in his Office, and ſhall be thereof convicted by the Oath of One or more Witneſs or Witneſſes, before any Two or more ſuch Juſtices as aforeſaid; it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Juſtices, at the Quarter Seſſions held for the ſaid Riding next after ſuch Conviction, on producing the ſame, or due Proof thereof, and they are hereby required to diſcharge and remove ſuch Officer or Perſon, ſo convicted, from his Office, and to appoint another proper Perſon in his Room and Stead; and ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo convicted and removed from his Office for ſuch Offence, ſhall be, from thenceforth, for ever diſabled to hold, exerciſe, or enjoy, any Office under or by virtue of this or the ſaid former Act.

Officers not to keep a Publick Houſe, or be concerned in the Cloth Trade.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted, That the Appointment of all and every Officers by the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Weſt Riding, by the ſaid recited Act directed to be made at the Quarter Seſſions held next after Eaſter yearly for the ſaid Riding, ſhall, at all Times hereafter, be made by the ſaid Juſtices

Appointment of Officers to be made at Quarter Seſſions.

stices at the Quarter Sessions held for the said Riding at Bradford, next after Midsummer yearly.

How and when Offences shall be prosecuted, and Forfeitures applied.

And it is hereby further enacted, That all Informations relating to any Offences to be committed against this or the said former Act (except where it is otherwise therein respectively provided for) shall be made and given within Ten Days after such Offence shall be discovered; and all and every such Offences shall be enquired of and determined, and Convictions thereon made, upon Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, by any One or more such Justice or Justices of the Peace as aforesaid (not being a Dealer in Woollen Cloth, nor Occupier of any Fulling-mill as aforesaid) Notice being first given of the Charge to the Person or Persons therewith charged; and that all such Penalties and Forfeitures as shall or may happen by reason of this or the said former Act, shall, after deducting the Charges of such Conviction, go, and be disposed of, One Half to the Person or Persons who shall give Information of the Offence on which the Conviction shall be made, and the other Half to the said Treasurer of the said West Riding; and that such Part thereof as shall belong to the said Treasurer, shall be received by such Justice or Justices before whom such Conviction shall be made, and by him or them immediately paid to some Inspector or Supervisor of Broad Woollen Cloth; and the Receipt of such Inspector or Supervisor shall be a sufficient Discharge to such Justice or Justices, for so much Money as shall be therein expressed to be received; and such Justice or Justices shall also, within Three Months after any such Convictions, as aforesaid, shall be made by them, send, or cause to be sent, an Account thereof to the said Treasurer, and to whom such Penalties and Forfeitures shall be so paid.

Justices to send an Account of Convictions before them to the Treasurer.

Penalties how to be recovered.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any Offender or Offenders shall, for the Space of Ten Days next after he, she, or they, shall be convicted of any of the Offences aforesaid, and have Notice thereof to him, her, or them given, at his, her, or their Dwelling-house, or last Place of Abode, refuse or neglect to pay any Forfeiture by him, her, or them incurred, by reason of this or the said recited Act, or shall not give Notice of an Appeal to the next Quarter Sessions, as is herein after provided; then, and not before, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Justice or Justices of the Peace, before whom such Conviction shall be made, or any other Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said Riding, or any Corporation within the same (not being a Dealer

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in Woollen Broad Cloth, or Occupier of any Fulling-mill) upon a Certificate of such Conviction sent to him or them, from the Justice or Justices before whom such Conviction was made; and he or they is and are hereby authorized and required to issue out One or more Warrant or Warrants, under his or their Hand and Seal, or Hands and Seals, to the Constable of the Town or Place, or Bailiff or Bailiffs of the Liberties, Wapentakes, or Limits, where such Offender or Offenders doth or shall inhabit, thereby commanding him or them to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattles, returning the Overplus, (if any be) after paying likewise the Charges of such Distress and Sale to the Offender or Offenders demanding the same; and where no sufficient Distress can be found, to commit the Offender or Offenders to the House of Correction, for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall find him, her, or themselves aggrieved, by any Order, Warrant, or Determination, made by any Justice or Justices, upon any Information by him or them, in pursuance of this Act, such Person or Persons may appeal to the next Quarter Sessions to be held for the West Riding of the County of York, where such Determination shall be made, which shall not be held within Fourteen Days next after the Cause of Appeal shall arise, giving Ten Days Notice of Appeal to the Party in whose Favour such Order or Determination shall be made; and if the Justices at the said Quarter Sessions, either confirm or disannul the Orders or Proceedings of the said Justice or Justices, they shall allow such Costs and Charges to the Party aggrieved thereby, as they shall think reasonable, to be levied and paid in such Manner as is usual in Cases of Appeal from any Order of the Justices of the Peace to the Sessions, whose Order herein shall be final.

Justices, &c. to return Accounts of Convictions, and Money received thereon, to the Quarter Sessions.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the several Justices of the Peace before whom any Conviction shall be made, by virtue of this Act, as also the several Inspectors and Supervisors so to be appointed as aforesaid, shall, and they are hereby required, at the Four General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held in and for the said Riding, to return and transmit to the Justices of the Peace assembled at such General Quarter Sessions, a true and perfect Account in Writing, of all the Convictions that shall have been made in pursuance

suance of this Act, that shall happen within their Knowledge; and of all the Penalties and Forfeitures inflicted or levied by Means or on Account thereof, which, by virtue of this or the said former Act, are made payable to the said Treasurer for the said West Riding; and the said Inspectors and Supervisors shall pay, or cause to be paid, to the Treasurer for the time being, within Three Calendar Months after the Receipt thereof, all and every Sum and Sums of Money by them, or any of them, or for their or any of their Use, had or received, for or on account of any such Conviction or Convictions, and which, by this or the said former Act, are made payable, or directed to be accounted for to the said Treasurer of the said West Riding; and every Person and Persons neglecting or refusing to return and transmit such Account, within Twenty Days next after any of the said Sessions, or to pay, or cause to be paid, such Sums of Money so by him received, or in their Hands, or any Part thereof, for the Space of Three Calendar Months next after the Receipt thereof respectively, and being thereof convicted, upon the Oath of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses, before any Two Justices of the Peace of and for the said Riding, (not being Dealers in Cloth, or Occupiers of any Fulling-mill) shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Ten Pounds, over and above the several Sums by him or them received in his Hands as aforesaid; to be recovered, paid, and applied, in such Manner as the other Penalties inflicted by this Act are directed to be recovered, paid, and applied.

Penalty on their Neglect, &c.

This Act to extend to all Woollen Cloths, except Narrow Cloths described in Act 11 *Geo.* II. and Blanketing.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, and all the Penalties and Clauses therein contained, shall extend to all Woollen Cloths which shall be made and milled within the West Riding of the County of York, except such Narrow Woollen Cloths as are mentioned and described, and for which Provision is made in and by an Act made in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for the better regulating of Narrow Woollen Cloths in the West Riding of the County of *York*; and also except such Woollen Goods as are made for Blankets or Blanketing, and Striped Duffel'd Blankets.

Application of Money in the Treasurer's Hands.

And whereas several Sums of Money have been, and will be expended by divers Persons, in and about the obtaining this present Act; and it is apprehended that the Money expended in obtaining the said former Act, hath not yet been wholly reimbursed or satisfied to the Person or Persons concerned in obtaining the same:

Now,

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Now it is hereby enacted, That the Treaſurer of the ſaid Weſt Riding for the time being, ſhall, out of the Money now in his Hands, or which ſhall hereafter be received by him, on account of the Duties and Forfeitures herein before, or by the ſaid former Act, directed to be paid to ſuch Treaſurer as aforeſaid, firſt pay the Charges and Expences remaining due and unpaid on the Account of obtaining the ſaid former Act, and afterwards the Charges and Expences of obtaining the paſſing this Act, together with ſuch Intereſt, for all or any Part of ſuch Charges and Expences, as the ſaid Juſtices, at their General Quarter Seſſions, to be held next after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty ſix, ſhall order, direct or appoint; and the ſaid Treaſurer ſhall afterwards pay and apply the ſaid Duties and Penalties, as the ſame ſhall come in and be received, in and for the Payment of the Salaries of the Searchers, Meaſurers, Inſpectors, and Superviſors of Cloth herein before directed to be choſen and appointed, as aforeſaid, in ſuch Proportions, and in ſuch Manner, as the ſaid Juſtices of the Peace, at their General Quarter Seſſions yearly to be held next after Midſummer, ſhall direct and appoint.

When Juſtices may increaſe or diminiſh Rates.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That after all the Money to be expended in and about the obtaining this Act, and yet remaining due of the Expences of the ſaid recited Act, ſhall be totally paid off and diſcharged, it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the Juſtices of the Peace for the ſaid Weſt Riding, at their General Quarter Seſſions held next after Midſummer yearly, to make Orders for the increaſing or diminiſhing the Rates or Duties to be paid for meaſuring, ſtamping, and ſealing of Cloth, ſo as the ſame ſhall never exceed the ſeveral Rates or Duties herein before, or by the ſaid former Act, directed to be paid for the ſame.

Limitation of Actions.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Suit or Action ſhall be commenced or proſecuted againſt any Perſon or Perſons for any Thing done or to be done in purſuance of this Act, every ſuch Suit or Action ſhall be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and ſhall be laid, brought, and tried, in the County of York, and not elſewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in ſuch Suits or Actions ſhall and 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 of, and by the Authority of this Act: And if it ſhall appear

General Iſſue.

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to be so done; or if any such Suit or Action shall be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County or Place, that then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants: And upon such Verdict; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become Nonsuit, or discontinue his, her, or their Action, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared; or if upon Demurrer, Judgement shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, 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 for Costs in other Cases by Law.

Treble Costs.

Certain Penalties in the former Act repealed.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Penalties and Forfeitures which any Measurer, Searcher, or Supervisor, can or may be subject or liable to, by virtue of or under the said former Act, for falsely stamping any Cloth Two Inches in Breadth and One Yard in Length, or which any Inspector or Supervisor may be subject to for neglecting to give Information to a Justice of the Peace, where Cloth shall be found falsly stamped, by any Measurer or Searcher, or which any Person or Persons may thereby be subject to for taking off, altering, counterfeiting, defacing, obliterating, or cutting out any Seal or Seals, or for over-stretching or straining any Cloth, or for having Cloth in their Custody over-stretched or strained, or without the Seals by the said Act ordered to be affixed thereon, or with such Seals altered, counterfeited, defaced, or obliterated, or with the Name and Place of Abode of the Maker cut out or altered, or for using Cards made with Wire, in the dressing of Cloth, so as the same be fine Hatters Cards, and used upon the Tenters only, shall, from and after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, be, and they are hereby repealed, revoked, annulled, and made and declared to cease and be void and of none Effect: And no Merchant, Cloth-buyer, Cloth-maker, Cloth-dresser, Measurer, Inspector, Searcher, or Supervisor, or other Person, shall from and after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and sixty six, be subject to, or affected by, or be prosecuted for or upon account of any such Pains, Penalties, or Forfeitures, by Reason or on Account or Pretence of any of the Offences, Misdemeanors, Matters, or Things, herein last before recapitulated, mentioned, and expressed, except as aforesaid, and other than by virtue and under the Authority of this present Act.

And

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And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That all the Clauſes, Proviſions, Matters, and Things, in the ſaid former Act contained, other than and except ſo far forth as the ſame or any of them reſpectively are revoked, repealed, altered, amended, or otherwiſe explained, by the Force, Effect, and Operation of this preſent Act, ſhall be, remain, and continue in full Force and Virtue, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if the ſame had been repeated and re-enacted in and by this preſent Act. And alſo, That this Act ſhall be taken and deemed to be a Publick Act; and all Judges, Juſtices, and other Perſons are hereby required to take Notice thereof as ſuch, without ſpecially pleading the ſame.

Clauſes in the former Act not repealed to continue in Force.

Publick Act.

FINIS.