Anno octavo

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. XVII.

An Act to amend an Act made in the Seventh Year of King *George* the First, intituled, *An Act for regulating the Journeymen Taylors within the Weekly Bills of Mortality.*

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the First, intituled, An Act for regulating the Journeymen Taylors within the Weekly Bills of Mortality; Power is given to the Justices of the Peace, at their General Quarter Sessions, within the Limits in the said Act mentioned, from time to time, upon Application being made to them for that Purpose, to take into Consideration

Preamble, reciting Act 7 Geo. I.

ſideration the Plenty or Scarcity of the Times, and other Circumſtances, and thereupon to alter and regulate the Wages and other Allowances, directed by the ſaid Act to be paid and made to, and the Hours for Work of Journeymen Taylors and Servants retained or employed in the Art or Myſtery of a Taylor, within their reſpective Juriſdictions; and alſo to puniſh all Perſons not complying with the Terms of the ſaid Act, or of ſuch Rules and Regulations, in Manner in the ſaid Act mentioned: And whereas, by virtue of the Power aforeſaid, the Juſtices of the Peace, at their General Quarter Seſſions, within the City of London and County of Middleſex reſpectively, have, from time to time, made Orders, Rules, and Regulations, with reſpect to the Hours of Working, and the Wages and Allowances to be paid and made to Journeymen Taylors, and others, as aforeſaid; but Doubts and Difficulties having ariſen, touching the Proſecution of Perſons offending againſt the ſaid Act, or againſt the ſaid Rules, Orders, and Regulations, and many ſubtle Devices having been practiſed in order to evade the ſaid Rules, Orders, and Regulations, the due Execution of the ſaid Act hath been greatly obſtructed: And whereas it is neceſſary that the ſaid Act ſhould in ſome other Reſpects be explained and amended: 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 from and after the Twenty fifth Day of March, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty eight, the Hours of Work in the Day for Servants or Journeymen, to be employed in the Buſineſs of a Taylor within the City of London, and Five Miles thereof, ſhall be from Six of the Clock in the Morning until Seven of the Clock in the Evening, with an Interval of One Hour only for Refreſhment; and that there ſhall be paid to every ſuch Servant or Journeyman to be employed as aforeſaid for his Work, during the Hours aforeſaid, the Wages or Allowances following; that is to ſay, Any Sum not exceeding Two Shillings and Seven Pence Halfpenny per Diem, except during the Space of One Calendar Month from the Publication of any Order for a General Mourning by

Hours and Price for Working limited within a certain District.

by the Earl Marshal, in the London Gazette, and during that Space, any Sum not exceeding Five Shillings and One Penny Halfpenny.

And it is hereby further enacted, That if any Master Taylor, or other Person professing, using, or exercising, the Art or Mystery of a Taylor, within the City of London, or within Five Miles thereof, shall, after the said Twenty fifth Day of March, give, allow, or pay, or cause, permit, or suffer to be given, allowed, or paid, directly or indirectly, in Money, or otherwise, to any Servant or Journeyman in the Business of a Taylor, any more or greater Wages or Allowances, than the Wages or Allowances aforesaid, or such other Wages and Allowances as shall hereafter from time to time be ordered and appointed by virtue and in pursuance of this Act; or if any Servant, Journeyman, or other Person, using and following the said Business of a Taylor, within the Limits aforesaid, that is to say, Within the City of London, or within Five Miles thereof, shall have, receive, accept of, or take, in any Manner, directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other Person to his Use, any more or greater Wages or Allowances than as aforesaid, in Money or otherwise; every Person so offending, in any or either of the said Cases, and being thereof convicted before any Two Justices of the Peace for the County, City, Liberty, Town, Borough, or Franchise, wherein the Offence shall have been committed, either by Confession of the Party, or upon the Oath or Oaths of One or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oaths the said Justices are hereby impowered and required to administer) upon any Information made, or Prosecution commenced before any such Two Justices within their respective Jurisdictions, at any Time within Three Months after the committing of such Offence, shall be committed to the House of Correction for the County or Place where the Offence shall be committed, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of such Justices, there to be kept to hard Labour, or to the Common Gaol, for any Time not exceeding Two Months, nor less than Fourteen Days, at the Discretion of the said Justices.

Penalty on acting contrary to the above Limitation.

Justices impowered to call Witnesses before them on Suspicion that the above Regulation is broke through.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any Two Justices of the Peace within the Limits aforesaid, and

and they are hereby required, on Information upon Oath made before them, by any Person or Persons whatsoever, that there is Reason to suspect that any Person or Persons using, exercising, or following, the Business of a Master Taylor, or Journeyman Taylor, within the Limits aforesaid, hath given, paid, allowed, or received, greater Wages or Allowances than as aforesaid, at the 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 such Informant shall think necessary, for the Purpose of giving Evidence in the Premisses to attend such Justices, or some other Two Justices acting for such County or Place, at a Time and Place in such Summons to be specified, to testify concerning the Premisses; and if any such 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 Premisses in the said Information contained; and if any such Person so attending, or being brought before such Justices, shall refuse to be examined, or give their Testimony touching the Premisses in such Information contained, such Person shall by the said Justices be committed to the House of Correction, there to remain until he or she shall submit to be examined and to give Testimony as aforesaid.

Quarter Sessions in *London* to make Regulations for the future.

And whereas, under the Provisions of the said Act made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of King George the First, it may happen that One and the same Rate of Wages and Allowances to Journeymen Taylors, may not be appointed and established within the City of London and Westminster, and Weekly

ly Bills of Mortality, which would be highly inconvenient and prejudicial to the Public; now to prevent such Inconvenience, and to the End that One just and reasonable Rate of such Wages and Allowances may be established within the City of London, and Five Miles therefrom, in future, subject nevertheless to such Alterations as the Exigencies of the Times may require; be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder of the City of London for the time being, at their General Quarter Sessions, or General Sessions of the Peace assembled, and they are hereby authorized and required, from time to time, upon Application being made to them for that Purpose, to alter, regulate, order, and appoint, the Wages and Allowances to be paid or made to Journeymen Taylors and Servants retained or employed, or to be retained or employed, in the Art or Mystery of a Taylor, in the making up Mens and Womens Work within the City of London, or within Five Miles thereof, and the Hours of Work; and shall and may, within the Space of Fourteen Days next after the making every such Order, cause the same to be printed, published, and made known, in such Manner as to them shall seem meet, at the reasonable Expence of the Person or Persons applying for the same; and from and after Publication thereof, all Taylors, and their Journeymen and Servants, within the Limits aforesaid, are hereby strictly required to observe the same, the Provisions of the said Act of the Seventh of King George the First to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Sufficient Notice.

Provided always, That advertizing such Orders of Sessions Three Times in any Two Daily News Papers published in London or Westminster, shall for the Purposes of this Act be deemed and allowed to be sufficient Notice and Publication thereof.

Provisions of this Act not to extend to Taylors Foremen, or working over Hours.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to fix, controul, or regulate, the Wages or Allowances or Hours of Work, of Servants in the said Business of a Taylor, bona fide, retained and employed as Foremen; or to hinder the paying or receiving further or

other Wages or Allowances (not exceeding Six Pence by the Hour in Times of General Mourning, and Three Pence by the Hour at any other Time or Times) which shall be agreed upon for working before or after the Hours of Work limited or appointed, or to be limited or appointed as aforesaid, so as such Over-work be not at any One Time less than One Hour, and be actually and bona fide done and performed by such Journeyman or Servant; and so as such Retainer or Employment, and such Agreement or Payment, be not made in Fraud of, or to elude, the Regulations herein before provided with respect to Wages, Allowances, and Hours of Working, settled and ascertained, or to be settled and ascertained as aforesaid.

Penalty on Masters employing Men out of the Limits, to evade the Act.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said Twenty fifth Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and sixty eight, if any Master Taylor, or other Person professing, using, or exercising, the Art or Mystery of a Taylor, residing or inhabiting within the Limits aforesaid, shall directly or indirectly in any Manner whatsoever retain or employ any Servant, Journeyman, or other Person, using or following the Business of a Taylor, in or about the making up Mens or Womens Work out of, or beyond, the Limits aforesaid, with Intent or Design to elude or evade this Act, and shall give, allow, or pay, or cause to be given, allowed, or paid, directly or indirectly, to such Servant or Journeyman, any more or greater Wages or Allowances than the Wages or Allowances settled and ascertained, or to be settled and ascertained as aforesaid; every such Person shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of Five hundred Pounds, to be sued for by Action of Debt, to be brought in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law, or more than One Imparlance, 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 the King's Majesty, and his Successors, and the other Moiety to the Person who shall sue for the same.

Persons aggrieved may appeal to the Quarter Sessions.

Provided always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any

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; and such Justices in such General Quarter Sessions, or General Sessions, shall finally hear and determine the Matter, and shall have Power 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.

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. Limitation of Actions.

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.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be taken and allowed Publick Act.

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to be a Public Act in all Courts within this Kingdom of Great Britain, and all Judges and Justices of the Peace are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

FINIS.