

ANNO QUADRAGESIMO TERTIO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

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CAP. XXXI.

An Act for eſtabliſhing certain Regulations in the Office of Surveyor General of His Majeſty's Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes. [7th *April* 1803.]

WHEREAS it is highly expedient that the moſt effectual Means ſhould be employed for preventing Abuſes in His Majeſty's Woods and Foreſts, Parks and Chaſes, 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 paſſing of this Act, every Officer appointed to any Office by or under the Surveyor General of His Majeſty's Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes, ſhall take the following Oath, to be adminiſtered to him by the ſaid Surveyor General; (that is to ſay),

Every Officer under the Surveyor General of His Majeſty's Woods ſhall take the following Oath.

'I *A. B.* do ſwear, that I will truly, honeſtly, faithfully, and diligently execute the Duties of the Office to which I have been appointed by [*or* under] the Surveyor General of the Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes; and that I will not for the Execution thereof, or on any other Account or Pretext whatſoever, receive, take, or accept, in reſpect of the ſaid Office, at any Time, any Perquiſite of any Deſcription, or any Emolument, pecuniary or other, except or beyond the Salary and Allowances

'lowances (if any) ſpecified in the written Inſtrument by which I have 'been appointed.

'So help me GOD.'

All Returns and Eſtimates of Timber Trees, *etc.* and of Works to be done in the ſaid Woods, *etc.* ſhall be ſigned and verified upon Oath, before a Juſtice, or the Surveyor General.

II. And be it further enacted, That, from and after the ſaid paſſing of this Act, all Returns and Eſtimates of the Quantity, Quality, and Value of Timber Trees, Coppice, and Underwood, and of or concerning Incloſures, Buildings, Repairs, Plantations, and other Works, to be done and executed in the ſaid Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes, and alſo all Accounts of Monies received and expended for or on Account of the Sale of any ſuch Timber Trees, Coppice, or Underwood, and for or on Account of any ſuch Incloſure, Buildings, Repairs, Plantations, or other Works, and for or on Account of any other Matter or Thing touching the ſaid Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes, which ſhall be made or rendered by any Officer under His Majeſty's Surveyor General of the ſaid Woods, Foreſts, Parks, and Chaſes, or by any other Perſon employed by or under him, ſhall, within a convenient Time after the ſame ſhall be completed, be ſubſcribed with the Name and in the Hand Writing, and verified by the Oath, of ſuch Officer or other Perſon; ſuch Oath to be adminiſtered and certified in Writing upon ſuch Report, Eſtimate, or Account, either by ſome Juſtice of the Peace in the County where ſuch Wood, Foreſt, Park, or Chaſe, ſhall be ſituated, or by the ſaid Surveyor General, at the Diſcretion of the ſaid Surveyor General; which Oath ſuch Surveyor General is hereby authorized and required to adminiſter, or direct to be adminiſtered by ſuch Juſtice of the Peace.

Copies of ſuch Eſtimates, *etc.* to be tranſmitted to the Surveyor General, Two Months previous to their Verification, who may require the Parties to attend him to be examined upon Oath, and cauſe the Examination to be reduced into Writing.

III. And it is alſo hereby enacted, That true Copies of all ſuch Eſtimates, Reports, and Accounts, ſhall be tranſmitted by the Officer or Perſon making or rendering the ſame, ſubſcribed with the Name and in the Hand Writing of ſuch Officer or other Perſon, to the ſaid Surveyor General, at leaſt Two Calendar Months previous to ſuch Verification thereof upon Oath as aforeſaid; and that it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Surveyor General, at any Time after he ſhall have received ſuch Copies of ſuch Eſtimates, Returns, or Accounts, and previous to the Verification thereof as aforeſaid, to require of the Officer or other Perſon making or rendering the ſame, to attend him, and be examined upon Oath, to be adminiſtered to ſuch Officer or other Perſon by the ſaid Surveyor General, and which Oath the ſaid Surveyor General is hereby authorized to adminiſter, touching and concerning all or any of the Particulars and Items contained in ſuch Eſtimates, Returns, or Accounts, and touching and concerning the Conduct of ſuch Officer or other Perſon in the Execution of their Duty, in reſpect to the Matters to which ſuch Eſtimates, Returns, or Accounts ſhall relate; which Examination, or the Subſtance and Effect thereof, the ſaid Surveyor General, when he ſhall think proper, ſhall cauſe to be reduced into Writing, and ſigned by ſuch Officer or other Perſon; and if upon ſuch Examination it ſhall appear that any unintentional Error or Errors ſhall have been committed by ſuch Officer or other Perſon, in the Return, Eſtimate, or Account concerning which ſuch Examination ſhall be had and taken, it ſhall be lawful for ſuch Officer or other Perſon to correct ſuch Error in the ſame, and in the Copy thereof ſo tranſmitted as aforeſaid to the ſaid Surveyor General, previous to the Verification thereof upon Oath, in Manner aforeſaid, in which Caſe ſuch Correction or Corrections ſhall be certified by the ſaid Surveyor

Unintentional Errors may be corrected, which ſhall be certified by the Surveyor General.

General

General in Writing, both upon the Copy and upon the original Account intended to be verified upon Oath as aforesaid.

Persons guilty of Perjury liable to Punishment.

IV. And be it further enacted, That if any such Officer or other Person as aforesaid, shall in any such Verification upon Oath, or on Examination as aforesaid, be guilty of wilful and corrupt Perjury, such Officer or other Person so offending shall be liable to be punished in such Manner as is provided by the different Laws and Statutes now in Force for the Punishment of wilful and corrupt Perjury.

Surveyor General may send and receive Letters and Packets Postage free, as other Officers mentioned in 4 Geo. 3. c. 24. and 42 Geo. 3. c. 63.

V. And whereas the Privilege of sending and receiving Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage is not extended to the Surveyor General of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, Parks, and Chases, who by virtue of his Office necessarily sends and receives many Letters and Packets relating to the publick Service of this Kingdom; be it therefore enacted, That, from and after the passing of this Act, the said Surveyor General of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, Parks, and Chases, for the Time being, shall and may send and receive Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage, in the same Manner and under such Restrictions as other Officers mentioned in an Act, made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act for preventing Frauds and Abuses in Relation to the sending and receiving Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage*; and also in another Act made in the Forty-second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, *An Act to authorize the sending and receiving of Letters and Packets, Votes, Proceedings in Parliament, and printed Newspapers by the Post, free from the Duty of Postage, by the Members of the Two Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom, and by certain Publick Officers therein named; and for reducing the Postage on such Votes, Proceedings, and Newspapers, when sent by any other Persons*; are thereby permitted, in respect of their Offices, to send and receive the same in pursuance of the said Acts; any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

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