ANNO QUADRAGESIMO QUINTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. XCI.

An Act for appointing additional Commiſſioners for the better examining and auditing certain of the Publick Accounts of *Great Britain*.

[10th *July* 1805.]

WHEREAS the Publick Accounts of *Great Britain* have ſo much increaſed ſince the Commencement of the late War, that the Commiſſioners appointed under an Act paſſed in the Twenty-fifth Year of His preſent Majeſty's Reign, for auditing the Publick Accounts, have not been able to enter upon the Examination of a conſiderable Part of ſuch of the ſaid Accounts as have been already delivered into their Office, and others have not yet been rendered by the Parties accountable to the Publick; and it is therefore expedient, in order to prevent the great Inconvenience which will ariſe from any further Delay in the Examination and auditing of the ſaid Accounts, that an additional Board of Commiſſioners ſhould be appointed for the Purpoſe of examining and auditing ſuch of the ſaid Accounts as are herein-after ſpecified; 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 be lawful for His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of *Great Britain*, to nominate and appoint Three Perſons to be an additional Board of Commiſſioners for examining and auditing, according to a Selection to be made from Time to Time

His Majeſty may appoint Three Commiſſioners as an additional Board for examining and auditing Publick Accounts.

Time by the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or any Three or more of them, ſuch of the extraordinary Accounts of the publick Expenditure of *Great Britain* as the ſaid Commiſſioners appointed under the ſaid Act of the Twenty-fifth Year aforeſaid ſhall not have begun to examine; and the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or any Three or more of them for the Time being, are hereby authorized and empowered, to order and direct any ſuch Accounts of the publick Expenditure of *Great Britain* ſince the Commencement of the late War, or any other publick extraordinary Accounts, the Examination of which ſhall not have been begun upon, as they ſhall think fit to be examined and audited by the ſaid Commiſſioners to be appointed under this Act, who ſhall forthwith proceed to examine and audit the ſame accordingly; any Thing in the ſaid Act of the Twenty-fifth Year aforeſaid to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Commiſſioners to take the following Oath.

II. And be it further enacted, That the ſaid Commiſſioners ſo to be appointed as aforeſaid, before they ſhall enter upon the Execution of the Powers veſted in them by this Act, ſhall take an Oath before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which he is hereby authorized and required to adminiſter, the Tenor whereof ſhall be as followeth; (that is to ſay,)

'I *A. B.* do ſwear, That according to the beſt of my Skill and Knowledge, I will faithfully, impartially, and truly execute the ſeveral Powers and Truſts veſted in me by an Act, intituled, *An Act for* [*Here inſert the Title of the Act.*]'

And any Two of the ſaid Commiſſioners may do any Act, Matter, or Thing, which by this Act all ſuch Commiſſioners are authorized and empowered and required to do.

Treaſury may appoint Officers and Clerks.

III. And be it further enacted, That the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, ſhall be and they are hereby authorized to appoint ſuch Officers and Clerks, and other Perſons, as ſhall appear to them to be neceſſary from Time to Time, for making up and preparing for Declaration ſuch of the Publick Accounts of *Great Britain* as ſhall from Time to Time be laid before the ſaid Commiſſioners to be appointed under this Act, for the Purpoſes of being examined and audited by them; and to allow ſuch Salaries or Rewards to ſuch Officers, Clerks, and other Perſons, as they ſhall judge proper.

Powers veſted in Commiſſioners of Publick Accounts under 25 G. 3 c. 52. extended to additional Commiſſioners.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the Commiſſioners to be appointed under the Authority of this Act ſhall be and they are hereby inveſted with ſuch and the ſame Powers and Authorities, and ſhall be ſubject to the Performance of the ſame Duties, and liable to the ſame Controul in every reſpect, in relation to the Examination and auditing of all Accounts which ſhall be ſo directed to be examined and audited by them; and ſhall have the ſame Power of examining, on Oath, or otherwiſe, any Perſon or Perſons touching the Receipt and Expenditure of Money forming the Charge and Diſcharge of each Account reſpectively, and touching all other Matters and Things neceſſary for the due Execution of the Powers veſted in the ſaid Commiſſioners by this Act, as the Commiſſioners appointed by virtue of the ſaid Act of the Twenty-fifth Year aforeſaid, for auditing the Publick Accounts, are now under the ſaid Act, or by any other Law, or any Uſage or Cuſtom, inveſted with, or are ſubject and liable to in relation to the Examination and auditing of any of the Pub-

lick Accounts of *Great Britain*; and the Examination and auditing of any ſuch Accounts by the Commiſſioners to be appointed under this Act, and all Matters and Things ordered, directed, or done by them in relation thereto, or to any Accountants, Sub-accountants, or other Perſon or Perſons concerned therein, or examined touching the ſame, in purſuance of this Act, ſhall be as valid and effectual in all Reſpects, and to all Intents, Conſtructions, and Purpoſes, as if the ſame Accounts had been examined, and the ſaid Acts, Matters, and Things done by the Commiſſioners appointed under the ſaid Act of the Twenty-fifth Year aforeſaid.

Accountants and other Perſons concerned in Accounts under Examination to be ſubject to the Proviſions of the recited Act.

V. And be it further enacted, That all Accountants, Sub-accountants, and other Perſons, concerned in any Accounts under Examination before the Commiſſioners to be appointed under this Act, or to be examined by the ſaid Commiſſioners touching the ſame, ſhall, and they are hereby required to demean themſelves in ſuch Manner in all reſpects, and to do all ſuch Matters and Things, as by the ſaid Act of the Twenty-fifth Year aforeſaid is directed and required in like Caſes, and ſhall be ſubject and liable to ſuch Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures, as by virtue of the ſaid Act they would have been ſubject and liable to, for any Breach, Non-performance, Failure, or Neglect thereof; or for wilfully and corruptly giving falſe Evidence, in caſe ſuch Accounts had been under Examination before the Commiſſioners appointed under the ſaid Act.

Vouchers for Payment of Money before Dec. 31, 1804, to be admitted although not ſtamped.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Commiſſioners to be appointed by virtue of this Act, in their Examination of any Accounts for any Periods preceding the Thirty-firſt Day of *December* One thouſand eight hundred and four, to admit and allow of Receipts and Vouchers for any Monies expreſſed therein to have been paid, although ſuch Receipts or Vouchers ſhall not have been ſtamped according to Law.

Commiſſioners not to be Members of Parliament.

VII. And be it further enacted and declared, That no Commiſſioner to be appointed by virtue of this Act ſhall, during his Continuance in ſuch Office, be capable of being elected or of ſitting as a Member of the Houſe of Commons.

LONDON: Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAHAN, Printers to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty. 1805.