ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUINTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. LXXV.

An Act to continue the Encouragement of Persons making Discoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, or other useful Discoveries and Improvements in Navigation, and for making Experiments relating thereto; and for discharging certain Debts incurred by the Commissioners of the Longitude, in carrying the Acts relating thereto into Execution.

[7th *June* 1815.]

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Forty-sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for continuing the Encouragement of Persons making Discoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, or other useful Discoveries and Improvements in Navigation, and for making Experiments relating thereto; and for discharging certain Debts incurred by the Commissioners of the Longitude in carrying the Acts relating thereto into Execution*; the Commissioners for the Discovery of the Longitude were empowered, whenever they should be satisfied of the Probability of any Proposal or Proposals that should be made to them for Discovery of the Longitude, or making any other useful Discovery and Improvement in Navigation, so as to think it proper to cause Experiments to be made thereof, to certify the same to the Commissioners of the Navy, and also in case they should adjudge any Person or Persons to have made any Discovery for finding the Longitude at Sea, which though not of so great Use as to 46 G. 3. c. 77.

be entitled to any of the great Rewards ſpecified in an Act made in the Fourteenth Year of His preſent Majeſty, yet that ſuch Diſcovery was of conſiderable Uſe to the Public, or to have made any other Diſcovery or Diſcoveries, Improvement or Improvements uſeful to Navigation, to certify ſuch leſs Reward or Sum or Sums of Money as the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of Longitude ſhould think reaſonable to be paid to ſuch Perſon or Perſons; and the Commiſſioners of the Navy were thereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treaſurer of the Navy, for ſuch Sum or Sums ſo certified, who was thereby authorized and required to pay the ſame immediately to ſuch Perſon or Perſons out of any Monies which ſhould be in his the Treaſurer's Hands, unapplied to the Uſe of the Navy; and it was thereby further enacted, that all ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as ſhould be paid by the Treaſurer of the Navy by virtue of the ſaid Act, as well for the Purpoſe of diſcharging the ſeveral Debts which had been incurred and were then growing due, as of making ſuch Experiments as aforeſaid, and of rewarding in a leſſer Degree leſſer Diſcoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, and alſo other Diſcoveries and Improvements uſeful to Navigation, ſhould not altogether exceed the Sum of Ten thouſand Pounds: And whereas by ſeveral Payments made by the Treaſurer of the Navy purſuant to the Directions of the ſaid Act of the Forty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude have expended the whole of the Sum of Ten thouſand Pounds granted by the ſaid Act for the Purpoſes aforeſaid; and moreover ſeveral Debts have been incurred and are now growing due, for ſundry Matters and Things done by Order of the ſaid Commiſſioners in carrying the ſaid Acts into Execution, and for Service tending to the Benefit of Navigation: And whereas it is highly neceſſary that the ſaid Debts ſhould be diſcharged, and that the ſaid Encouragements and Rewards for the Purpoſes mentioned in the ſaid Act of the Forty-ſixth Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty ſhould be continued; 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 the Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude ſhall and may certify the Amount of ſuch Debts, together with the Names of the Perſons to whom the ſame are or ſhall be reſpectively due, under their Hands and Seals, to the Commiſſioners of the Navy, who are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treaſurer of the Navy, for ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as may be neceſſary for diſcharging the ſaid Debts, which Sum or Sums the ſaid Treaſurer is hereby required to pay to the Perſon or Perſons to whom the ſame ſhall be ſo certified to be due reſpectively out of any Money which ſhall be in his the ſaid Treaſurer's Hands, unapplied as aforeſaid.

Debts incurred under recited Act to be certified, and Bills made out for Payment.

Uſeful Diſcoveries in Navigation to be certified for Reward.

II. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall and may be lawful to and for the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, and they are hereby authorized and empowered whenever they ſhall be ſatisfied of the Probability of any Propoſal or Propoſals that ſhall be made to them for Diſcovery of the Longitude, or making any other uſeful Diſcovery and Improvement in Navigation, ſo as to think it proper to cauſe Experiments to be made thereof, to certify the ſame to the Commiſſioners of the Navy, and alſo in caſe they ſhall adjudge any Perſon or Perſons to have made any Diſcovery for finding the Longitude at Sea, which though not of ſo great

Title as to be entitled to any of the great Rewards ſpecified in the ſaid Act of the Fourteenth Year of His preſent Majeſty; yet that ſuch Diſcovery is of conſiderable Uſe to the Public, or to have made any other Diſcovery or Diſcoveries, Improvement or Improvements uſeful to Navigation, to certify ſuch leſs Reward or Sum or Sums of Money as they the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude ſhall think reaſonable to be paid to ſuch Perſon or Perſons; and the Commiſſioners of the Navy are hereby authorized and required to make out a Bill or Bills upon the Treaſurer of the Navy for ſuch Sum or Sums as ſhall be ſo certified to them by the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, and the ſaid Treaſurer of the Navy is hereby authorized and required to pay immediately ſuch Sum or Sums to the Perſon or Perſons who ſhall be appointed by the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, to make ſuch Experiments or to receive ſuch leſs Reward or Sum or Sums of Money for making leſſer Diſcoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, or any other Diſcoveries and Improvements uſeful to Navigation, out of any Monies which ſhall be in his the ſaid Treaſurer's Hands unapplied to the Uſe of the Navy.

Debts incurred and new Rewards not to exceed 10,000l.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That all ſuch Sum or Sums of Money as ſhall be paid by the Treaſurer of the Navy by virtue of this Act, as well for the Purpoſe of diſcharging the ſeveral Debts which have been incurred and are now growing due in manner aforeſaid, as of making ſuch Experiments as aforeſaid, and of rewarding in a leſſer Degree leſſer Diſcoveries for finding the Longitude at Sea, and alſo other Diſcoveries and Improvements uſeful to Navigation, do not altogether exceed the Sum of Ten thouſand Pounds: Provided alſo, that in caſe any ſuch Reward or Sum of Money to be given or paid for any of the Purpoſes aforeſaid ſhall not exceed the Sum of One thouſand Pounds, that then and in every ſuch Caſe it ſhall be certified to the Commiſſioners of the Navy as aforeſaid, under the Hands and Seals of the ſaid Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude, or any Five or more of them, but if any ſuch Reward or Sum of Money ſhall exceed the Sum of One thouſand Pounds, that then the ſame ſhall in every ſuch Caſe be certified as aforeſaid, under the Hands and Seals of the Firſt Commiſſioner of the Admiralty, the Firſt Commiſſioner of the Navy, the Preſident of the Royal Society, the Royal Aſtronomer at *Greenwich*, and the Comptroller of the Navy for the Time being, they reſpectively being, by virtue of the ſeveral Offices held by them, Commiſſioners for the Diſcovery of the Longitude as aforeſaid.

How Rewards are to be certified.

Certificates not liable to Stamp Duty.

IV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That ſuch Certificates ſigned and ſealed reſpectively as herein-before is directed, ſhall not be conſidered, deemed, or taken to be Deeds or Inſtruments liable to any Stamp Duties, but that the ſame ſhall be good and valid, and ſhall and may be given in Evidence in any Court of Law or Equity as Occaſion ſhall require, without being ſtamped in any Manner whatſoever, any Law, Statute, or Uſage, to the contrary notwithſtanding.

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