ANNO QUARTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

****

C A P. LXXVII.

An Act to authorize His Majesty, under certain Circumstances, to regulate the Duties and Drawbacks on Goods imported or exported in Foreign Vessels; and to exempt certain Foreign Vessels from Pilotage. [18th *July* 1823.]

WHEREAS it is the Practice in many Cases, as well in Foreign Countries as in the United Kingdom, to charge higher Duties, and to grant smaller Drawbacks, Bounties, and Allowances, upon Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, when imported or exported in Ships or Vessels not belonging to the Country in which such Duties are charged, or Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances are granted, than are charged or granted when imported or exported in Ships or Vessels belonging to such Country: And whereas it is expedient that His Majesty should be empowered to allow the Importation or Exportation of any Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, in Foreign Vessels, upon Payment of the like Duties, and with the like Drawbacks, Bounties, and Allowances, as are now by Law paid or granted upon similar Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, when imported or exported in *British* Vessels from or to those Countries in which no other Duties are charged, or other Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances granted, upon the Importation or Exportation of any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize into or from such Country in *British* Vessels, than are charged or granted upon such Goods when imported into or exported from such Countries in Foreign Vessels: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and

His Majesty may, by Order in Council, authorize the Importation and Exportation of Goods in Foreign Vessels, on Payment of same Duties, &c. as British Vessels.

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, it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, or by His Majesty's Order or Orders in Council, to be published from Time to Time in the *London Gazette*, to authorize the Importation into or Exportation from the United Kingdom, or from any other of His Majesty's Dominions, of any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize which may be legally imported or exported in Foreign Vessels, upon Payment of such and the like Duties only, and with the like Drawbacks, Bounties, and Allowances, as are charged or granted upon similar Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, when imported or exported in *British* Vessels; provided always, that before any such Order or Orders shall be issued, satisfactory Proof shall have been laid before His Majesty and His Privy Council, that Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, imported into or exported from the Foreign Country in whose favour such Remission of Duties, or such Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances shall be granted, are charged with the same Duties, and are allowed the same Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances, when imported into or exported from such Foreign Country in *British* Vessels, as are levied or allowed on similar Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, when imported or exported in Vessels of such Country.

Proof to be first given, that in such Foreign Country, Goods imported and exported in British Vessels pay the same Duties, &c. as if in Vessels of the Country.

Additional Duties may be levied on Goods imported in Vessels belonging to Countries where higher Duties are imposed on Goods imported in British Vessels, than when imported in Vessels of the Country.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, or by His Majesty's Order or Orders in Council as aforesaid, whenever it shall be deemed expedient, to levy and charge any additional Duty or Duties of Customs, or to withhold the Payment of any Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances, upon any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, imported into or exported from the United Kingdom, or imported into or exported from any of His Majesty's Dominions, in Vessels belonging to any Foreign Country, in which higher Duties shall have been levied, or smaller Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances granted, upon Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, when imported into or exported from such Foreign Country in *British* Vessels, than are levied or granted upon similar Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, when imported or exported in Vessels of such Country; provided always, that such additional or countervailing Duties so to be imposed, and Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances so to be withheld as aforesaid, shall not be of greater Amount than may be deemed fairly to countervail the Difference of Duty, Drawback, Bounty, or Allowance paid or granted on Goods, Wares, or Merchandize imported into or exported from such Foreign Country in *British* Vessels, more or less than the Duties, Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances there charged or granted upon similar Goods, Wares, or Merchandize imported into or exported from such Foreign Country in Vessels of such Country.

Duties to be levied as other Duties.

III. And be it further enacted, That such additional or countervailing Duties of Customs shall be levied, recovered, and applied, in such and the like Manner as any other Duties of Customs are now by Law levied, recovered, or applied.

Such Duties may be removed, &c.

IV. And be it further enacted, That His Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, or by any Order or Orders in Council as aforesaid, is hereby empowered to remove, or again to impose, any such additional or countervailing Duty of Customs, or to renew or withhold such Drawbacks, Bounties, or Allowances, whenever it shall be deemed expedient so to do.

Foreign Vessels of less Burthen than Sixty Tons exempted from the Obligation of taking on board a Pilot to conduct them into British Ports.

V. And whereas it might tend to the Advantage of *British* Vessels arriving in Foreign Ports, if Power was given to His Majesty to exempt Foreign Vessels of less Burthen than Sixty Tons from the Obligation of taking on board Pilots to conduct them into or from the Ports of the United Kingdom, in all cases in which *British* Vessels of less Burthen than Sixty Tons are not required by Law to take Pilots; be it therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, or by any Order or Orders in Council, in all such Cases as aforesaid, to exempt Foreign Vessels, being of less Burthen than Sixty Tons, from taking on board a Pilot to conduct them into or from any of the Ports of the United Kingdom; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Orders in Council to be laid before Parliament.

VI. And be it further enacted, That a Copy of every Order in Council which may be issued under the Authority of this Act shall be laid before Parliament as soon after the issuing thereof as may be practicable, if Parliament shall be sitting, and if it shall not then be sitting, within Thirty Days after the Meeting thereof.

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Duties to be levied as the Duties.