ANNO DECIMO TERTIO

Georgii III. Regis.

CAP. LXII.

An Act for better regulating the Aſſize and making of Bread.

WHEREAS, according to the ancient Order and Cuſtom of the Realm, there hath been, from Time immemorial, a Standard Wheaten Bread, made of Flour, being the whole Produce of the Wheat whereof it was made: And whereas by an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-firſt Year of the Reign of George the Second, intituled, An Act for the due making of Bread, and to regulate the Price and Aſſize thereof, and to puniſh Perſons who ſhall adulterate Meal, Flour, or Bread; and by an Act, paſſed in the Third Year of the Reign of His preſent Majeſty, for explaining and amending the ſaid recited Act, Two Sorts of Bread, made of Wheat only, are allowed to be made for Sale; (that is to ſay), Wheaten and Houſehold; whereby the Flour, being the whole Produce of the Wheat, is ſo divided in the making of Bread for Sale, as that this Standard Wheaten Bread, made according

Preamble.

Act 31 Geo. II.

Act 3 Geo. III. cap. xi.

to the ancient Order and Custom of the Realm, could be no longer made for Sale: And whereas Household Bread, such as is intended by the said Act of George the Second to be made for Sale, is not generally made for Sale, whereby, and for want of the said Standard Wheaten Bread being continued, many Inconveniencies have arisen, and many of the inferior Classes of the People, more especially, have been under a Necessity of buying Bread at a higher Price than they could afford, to their great Hurt and Detriment: For Remedy thereof, may it 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-ninth Day of September, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, a Bread made of Wheat as followeth; that is to say, Of the Flour of Wheat, which Flour, without any Mixture or Division, shall be the whole Produce of the Grain, the Bran or Hull thereof only excepted, and which shall weigh Three-fourth Parts of the Weight of the Wheat whereof it shall be made, may be, at all Times, and is hereby allowed to be made, baked, exposed to or for Sale, and sold, and shall be called and understood to be a Standard Wheaten Bread.

After *Sept.* 29, 1773, Standard Wheaten Bread allowed to be made, baked, and sold.

Provided always, and be it hereby further enacted, That the Makers of the said Bread for Sale do and shall mark every Loaf thereof with the Capital Letters S. W. and that the Makers and Sellers of the same do make and sell the same; although no Assize of Bread be set of the Weight, and in the Proportions following; that is to say, That every Standard Wheaten Peck Loaf shall always weigh Seventeen Pounds Six Ounces Avoirdupois, every Half Peck Loaf Eight Pounds Eleven Ounces, and every Quartern Loaf Four Pounds Five Ounces and One Half of an Ounce Avoirdupois; and that every Peck Loaf, Half Peck Loaf, and Quartern Loaf, shall always be sold, as to Price, in proportion to each other respectively; and that where Wheaten and

Weight, Price, and Proportions of the different Loaves.

household

Houſehold Bread, made as the Law now directs, ſhall be ſold at the ſame Time, together with this Standard Wheaten Bread, they be ſold in reſpect of and in proportion to each other, as followeth; that is to ſay, That the ſame Weight of Wheaten Bread as coſts Eightpence, the ſame Weight of this Standard Wheaten Bread ſhall coſt Seven-pence, and the ſame Weight of Houſehold Bread ſhall coſt Sixpence; or Seven Standard Wheaten aſſized Loaves ſhall weigh equal to Eight Wheaten aſſized Loaves, or to Six Houſehold aſſized Loaves of the ſame Price, as near as may be.

Standard Wheaten Bread is not to be ſold as priced Loaves at one Time.

Provided alſo, and be it hereby further enacted, That the ſaid Standard Wheaten Bread be not, nor ſhall be made into, or expoſed to or for Sale, or ſold as priced Loaves, at One and the ſame Time, together with aſſized Loaves of the ſame Standard Wheaten Bread.

Magiſtrates are, when they think proper, to ſet the Aſſize, and fix the Price of Bread.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all and every Magiſtrate, Magiſtrates, or others, who is and are, by the Laws now in being, authoriſed and impowered to ſet the Aſſize and fix the Price of Bread, is, and are hereby authoriſed and required, whenever and where-ever he or they ſhall think proper, to ſet the Aſſize, or to fix the Price of Bread, in like Manner, and at the ſame Time to ſet the Aſſize on, or fix the Price of, the Standard Wheaten Bread aforeſaid, the Baker's Allowance for baking being included according to the Rates and Proportions ſeverally and reſpectively ſet down in the following Table.

After *September* 29, 1773, Makers of Bread for Sale to make and diſpoſe of the ſame as hereby directed.

And be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all Makers of Bread for Sale, and all Perſons who ſhall, after the ſaid Twenty-ninth Day of September, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-three, make and bake, for Sale, and ſhall ſell, or expoſe to or for Sale, the ſaid Standard Wheaten Bread, ſhall make, ſell, and expoſe to or for Sale the ſaid Bread as directed by this Act; and all ſuch Makers of the ſaid Bread for Sale, and Perſons ſelling, or expoſing to or for Sale, the ſaid Bread, ſhall be liable to the ſame or the like Pains, Penalties, Forfeitures, and Puniſhments, in all Reſpects whatſoever, for any Miſdemeanour or Neglect in the making, marking, ſelling, or expoſing to or for Sale, the ſaid Standard Wheaten Bread, as they are liable to by the Laws now in being, for any Miſdemeanour or Neglect, in reſpect to making, marking, ſelling, or expoſing to or for Sale, Wheaten or Houſehold Bread.

The Miller or Mealman ſelling adulterated Flour, ſhall forfeit the Penalties directed by Act 31 *Geo.* II.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if any Information ſhall be laid againſt any Baker for making, marking, baking, or expoſing to or for Sale, any Bread, purporting to be the Standard Wheaten Bread aforeſaid, made of Flour, not being the whole Produce of the Wheat, the Bran or Hull thereof only excepted, and weighing Three-fourth Parts of the Weight of the Wheat whereof it was made, and ſuch Baker ſhall prove that he bought the ſaid Flour, whereof his Bread was made, as and for ſuch Flour, as aforeſaid, of the Miller or Mealman, naming his Name and Place of Abode; then, and in ſuch Caſe, the Baker ſhall ſtand clear and acquitted, and the Miller or Mealman ſo offending, and being legally convicted thereof, ſhall forfeit and pay the Penalties enacted and directed to be paid, in the Caſe of adulterating Corn, Meal, or Flour, by an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-firſt Year of the Reign of King George the Second, intituled, An Act for the due making of Bread, and to regulate the Price and Aſſize thereof, and to puniſh Perſons who ſhall adulterate Meal, Flour, or Bread.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and where any Magistrate, Magistrates, or others, authorised as aforesaid, shall have set an Assize on or fixed the Price of the said Standard Wheaten Bread, as directed by this Act, all and every such Person or Persons so authorised, are hereby authorised and impowered to omit, if they think proper, the setting an Assize upon, or fixing the Price of any other Sort of Bread.

Where Magistrates shall have set an Assize on the Price of Standard Wheaten Bread, other Persons authorised may omit fixing the Price of any other Sort of Bread.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the Twenty-ninth Day of September, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, the Justices of the Peace of every County, Riding, Division, City, Town, Liberty, and Place, at any General or Quarter Session of the Peace which shall be held within their respective Counties, Riding, Division, Cities, Towns, Liberties, or Jurisdictions, may, if they shall think proper, prohibit, and they are hereby authorised and impowered to prohibit, for Three Months, unless they shall see Cause sooner to revoke the Order for such Prohibition, which they are hereby impowered to do at any adjourned Quarter Sessions, or any Special Sessions within their respective Jurisdictions, or within any Part thereof, the Makers of Bread for Sale from making for Sale, baking, selling, or exposing to or for Sale, any other One or more Sorts of Bread, being, or purporting to be, of a superior Quality, and sold at a higher Price than the Standard Wheaten Bread aforesaid: Provided, that no such Order for such Prohibition do take Place, or be in Force, until One Calendar Month at least after the Date of the making thereof; and every Order, which shall be so from Time to Time made, in or touching the Premises, by any such Justices, shall be entered in a Book, to be provided and kept for that Purpose by such Justices, and which Book shall and may be inspected by the Makers of Bread for Sale within the respective Jurisdiction of any such Justices, at all seasonable Times, in the Day-time, and without paying any Fee or Reward in respect thereof: And after the making every such Order by any such Justices, the Justices who shall make the same, shall, with all convenient Speed, cause a Copy

After *September* 29, 1773, Justices, at their Quarter Sessions, may prohibit, for 3 Months, the baking or selling other Bread than Standard Wheaten;

but no such Order shall take Place till One Calendar Month, at least, after the making thereof.

Copy of such Order to be put up in some Market Town, or inserted in some publick News-paper.

Copy of every such Order to be affixed or put up in some Market, or other publick Town, within the Division or Part of the County, Riding, Liberty, Rape, Wapentake, City, Town, or Place, in which such Order is to be observed, and take Place, or else such Justices, within their respective Jurisdictions, shall cause a Copy of every such Order to be, with all convenient Speed, after the making thereof respectively, inserted in some publick News-paper, which shall be published in the County, Riding, Division, Rape, Wapentake, City, Town, or Place, or some Part thereof, in which every such Order respectively is to be observed, and take Place.

Company of Bakers of *London*, &c. may offer Objections against such Prohibition.

Provided always, That within the City of London, and the Liberties thereof, the Company of Bakers of the said City, and in any other City, County, Division, District, Town, or Place, any Baker or Maker of Bread for Sale, Bakers or Makers of Bread for Sale, may, within the respective Jurisdiction to which he or they do belong, or wherein he or they do exercise their Trade or Mystery, have an Opportunity of offering to such Justices, as aforesaid, all such Objections as such Company of Bakers, or such Bakers or Makers of Bread for Sale, may have and think fit to offer against such Prohibition as aforesaid, at the Time when such Justices, as aforesaid, shall have under Consideration the ordering such Prohibition as aforesaid.

Wheaten Loaves, of the Price of 1 *d.* or 2 *d.* may be made and sold, according to Act 31 *Geo.* II.

Provided also, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent the Magistrates and others, who, by the Laws now in being, are authorised to set an Assize on Bread, from allowing at all Times, and even during the Time of such Prohibition as aforesaid, if they shall think fit, any White Loaves or Wheaten Loaves of the Price of One Penny, or Two-pence, to be made and sold, so that the said Loaves be made, marked, baked, exposed to and for Sale, and sold according to the Regulations of The Table of Assize and Price of Bread, contained in, and enacted by, an Act, passed in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of His late Majesty George the Second, intituled, An Act for the due making of Bread, and to regulate the Price and

Aſſize thereof, and to puniſh Perſons who ſhall adulterate Meal, Flour, or Bread.

No Aſſize to be ſet on coarſer Bread, if ſold at a lower Price, as directed by Act 31 *Geo.* II.

And whereas there may be many Places in this Kingdom, where the inferior Claſſes of the People are uſed to and may be deſirous of being ſupplied with Bread made of Wheat, of a coarſe and cheaper Sort than the Standard Wheaten Bread aforeſaid; be it hereby further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That it ſhall and may be lawful for any Baker or Maker of Bread for Sale, to make, bake, expoſe to Sale, and ſell, ſuch inferior and coarſer Bread, provided he or ſhe ſells ſuch Bread at a Price under that of the Houſehold Bread, as directed to be made and ſold by an Act, paſſed in the Thirty-firſt Year of the Reign of George the Second, intituled, An Act for the due making of Bread, and to regulate the Price and Aſſize thereof, and to puniſh Perſons who ſhall adulterate Meal, Flour, or Bread, although nothing in this Act contained doth extend, or ſhall be conſtrued to extend, to the ſetting any Aſſize thereon.

Where any Baker of Bread ſhall ſell coarſer Bread at the aſſized Houſehold Bread Price, he ſhall be liable to the Penalties inflicted by Law.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That when and where any Baker or Maker of Bread for Sale ſhall ſell, or expoſe to Sale, any ſuch inferior or coarſer Bread by Weights and Prices whereat the Houſehold Bread aforeſaid is at that Time aſſized, or priced, or ſold, he ſhall, for every ſuch Offence, being duly convicted, be liable to the ſame, or like Pains, Penalties, Forfeitures, and Puniſhments, as Bakers and Makers of Bread for Sale are now by Law liable to for any the like Miſdemeanour or Neglect in making, ſelling, or expoſing to or for Sale, any other Sort of Bread allowed by Law to be made or expoſed to or for Sale, and ſold.

Magiſtrates to have the ſame Powers relative to the making or ſelling of Bread as they may have by any Law now in being.

And be it further enacted, That all and every Magiſtrate, Magiſtrates, and others, as aforeſaid, following the Directions herein-before and herein-after given, ſhall have, and they are hereby declared to have, all the ſame Powers and Authority to apply them, to all Intents and Purpoſes whatſoever, relative to aſſizing, pricing, and regulating, the making, ſelling, or expoſing to or for Sale, the ſaid Standard Wheaten Bread, and puniſh-

ing the Makers, Sellers, and Exposers thereof to be for Sale, for any the like Misdemeanour or Neglect, in the making, marking, selling, or exposing the same to or for Sale, as they have by any Law now in being relative to assizing, pricing, making for Sale, selling, or exposing to or for Sale, any Bread whatsoever, and in as full and ample a Manner as if the said Powers were recited and enacted therein.

Magistrates, &c. intitled to all the Privileges and Protections of the Laws in being relative to the making and selling of Bread.

And be it further enacted, That all Magistrates, and all other Persons whatsoever, shall be intitled to, and have all the Privileges, Protections, and Indemnifications, in all Respects whatsoever, for what they shall lawfully do in putting this Act in Execution, as they are intitled to, and have by the Laws now in being relative to the making of Bread, and selling, or exposing the same to or for Sale, for putting the said Laws in Execution.

Not to extend to prejudice Right or Custom of the City of *London*, or Lords of Leet.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, shall not extend to prejudice any Right or Custom of the City of London, or the Practice there used, or any Right or Custom of any Lord or Lords of any Leet, to set, enquire, and punish the Breach of Assize of Bread within their respective Leets or Views of Frank Pledge, or the Right of any Clerk or Clerks of the Market, in any Place.

Nor shall this Act prejudice the ancient Right or Custom of the Dean of *St. Peter, Westminster*, &c.

Provided further, and it is hereby likewise enacted, That neither this Act, or any Thing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice the ancient Right or Custom of the Dean of the Collegiate Church of Saint Peter, Westminster, or the High Steward of the City of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, or his Deputy, or any of them, to set, ascertain, and appoint the Assize and Weight of all Sorts of Bread, to be sold or exposed to Sale, within the said City of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof; but they, and every of them, shall and may severally and respectively, from Time to Time, as there shall be Occasion, set, ascertain, and appoint, within the said City of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, accord-

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ing to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, the Assize and Weight of all Sorts of Bread, which shall be made, sold, or exposed to Sale, by any Person or Persons within the Limits of the said City of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof; and shall and may enquire, and punish, the Breach of every such Assize and Weight of Bread as fully and freely, in all Respects, as they, or any of them, have heretofore been accustomed to do, and as if this Act had never been made; any Thing herein contained to the Contrary hereof notwithstanding.

Provided likewise, That neither this Act, nor any Thing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prejudice the ancient Right or Custom of the Two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or either of them, or of their or either of their Clerks of the Market, or the Practice within the several Jurisdictions of the said Universities, or either of them, used to set, ascertain, and appoint the Assize and Weight of all Sorts of Bread to be sold, or exposed to Sale, within their several Jurisdictions; but that they, and every of them, shall and may severally and respectively, from Time to Time, as there shall be Occasion, set, ascertain, and appoint, within their several and respective Jurisdictions, the Assize and Weight of all Sorts of Bread to be sold, or exposed to Sale, by any Baker or other Person whatsoever, within the Limits of their several Jurisdictions, according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act; and shall and may enquire and punish the Breach thereof as fully and freely, in all Respects, as they used to do, and as if this Act had never been made; any Thing herein contained to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Nor shall any Thing contained prejudice the ancient Right of the Universities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*.

And be it hereby declared and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all the Laws now in being, for the due making of Bread, or to regulate the Price and Assize thereof, or to punish Persons who shall adulterate Meal, Flour, or Bread, do and shall stand and remain in full Force, in the Whole, and every Part thereof, not altered by this present Act.

All the Laws now in being for regulating the Price of Bread, *&c.* to remain in full Force.

And

Where the Chief Magistracy of a Corporation is vested in Two Bailiffs, one of them is to set an Assize on Bread.

And whereas Doubts have arisen, whether by the said Act, passed in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, where the Chief Magistracy of any Borough or Corporation lies and is vested in Two Bailiffs, One of the said Bailiffs, in the Absence of the other, is, by the said Act authorised and impowered to set an Assize on Bread; be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in such Boroughs and Corporations, One of the said Bailiffs, in the Absence of the other, shall be authorised and impowered to set an Assize on Bread, under the said Act, or this Act, and to do all other Matters and Things therein and hereby directed for setting the same.

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