

ANNO SEPTIMO & OCTAVO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

****

CAP. LVIII.

An Act to make Provision for ascertaining from Time to Time the Average Prices of *British* Corn. [2d *July* 1827.]

WHEREAS an Act was passed in the First and Second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act to repeal certain Acts passed in the Thirty-first, Thirty-third, Forty-fourth, and Forty-fifth Years of His late Majesty King* George *the Third, for regulating the Importation and Exportation of Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour into and from* Great Britain; *and to make further Provisions in lieu thereof:* And whereas it is expedient to repeal the said Act: 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That the said recited Act of the First and Second Year of His present Majesty's Reign shall be and the same is hereby repealed: Provided always, that all Acts and Parts of Acts which were repealed by or by virtue of the said Acts shall continue and shall be deemed and taken to be repealed, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this present Act had not been made.

1 & 2 G. 4. c. 87.

Recited Act repealed.

Proviso as to Acts repealed by recited Act.

Weekly Returns of Corn to be made in the Places herein mentioned by Inspectors to be appointed for that Purpose.

II. And whereas, for duly regulating the Importation of Foreign Corn, Grain, Meal, and Flour into the United Kingdom for Consumption, it is necessary that effectual Provision should be made for ascertaining from Time to Time the Average Prices of *British* Corn; be it therefore enacted, That Weekly Returns of the Purchases and Sales of *British* Corn shall be made in the Manner herein-after directed in the following Cities and Towns; that is to say, *London, Chelmsford, Colchester, Romford, Maidstone, Canterbury, Dartford, Chichester, Lewes, Rye, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Sudbury, Hadleigh, Stowmarket, Bury Saint Edmunds, Beccles, Bungay, Lowestoft, Cambridge, Ely, Wisbeach, Norwich, Yarmouth, Lynn, Thetford, Walton, Diss, East Dereham, Harleston, Holt, Aylesham, Fakenham, Northwalsham, Lincoln, Gainsborough, Gladfordbridge, Lowth, Boston, Sleaford, Stamford, Spalding, York, Bridlington, Beverley, Howden, Hull, Whitby, New Malton, Durham, Stockton, Darlington, Sunderland, Barnard Castle, Walsingham, Belford, Hexham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Morpeth, Alnwick, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Carlisle, Whitehaven, Cockermouth, Penrith, Egremont, Appleby, Kirkby-in-Kendal, Liverpool, Ulverston, Lancaster, Preston, Wigan, Warrington, Manchester, Bolton, Chester, Nantwich, Middlewich, Four Lane Ends, Holywell, Mold, Denbigh, Wrexham, Llanrwst, Ruthin, Beaumaris, Llannerchymed, Langefin, Carnarvon, Pwhelli, Conway, Bala, Corwen, Dolgelly, Cardigan, Lampeter, Aberystwith, Pembroke, Fishguard, Haverfordwest, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Kidwilly, Swansea, Neath, Cowbridge, Cardiff, Gloucester, Cirencester, Tetbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, Tewkesbury, Bristol, Taunton, Wells, Bridgewater, Frome, Chard, Monmouth, Abergaveny, Chepstow, Pont-y-Pool, Exeter, Barnstaple, Plymouth, Totness, Tavistock, Kingsbridge, Truro, Bodmin, Launceston, Redruth, Helstone, St. Austell, Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Sherborne, Shaston, Wareham, Winchester, Andover, Basingstoke, Fareham, Havant, Newport, Ringwood, Southampton*, and *Portsmouth*: And for the Purpose of duly collecting and transmitting such Weekly Returns as aforesaid, there shall be appointed in each of the said Cities and Towns, in manner herein-after directed, a fit and proper Person to be Inspector of Corn Returns.

Comptroller.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for His Majesty to appoint a fit and proper Person to be Comptroller of Corn Returns, for the Purposes herein-after mentioned, and to grant to such Comptroller of Corn Returns such Salary and Allowances as to His Majesty shall seem meet: Provided always, that such Person shall be appointed to and shall hold such his Office during His Majesty's Pleasure, and not otherwise, and shall at all Times conform to and obey such lawful Instructions touching the Execution of the Duties of such his Office, as shall from Time to Time be given to him by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, appointed for the Consideration of all Matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

Oath of Comptroller.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Comptroller of Corn Returns, before he enters on the Execution of such his Office, shall, before some or one of the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer at *Westminster*, or before one of His Masters in Ordinary

of the High Court of Chancery, take and subscribe an Oath in the following Words; that is to say,

'I *A. B.* do swear, That I will, to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, execute the Office of Comptroller of Corn Returns, according to the Provisions of an Act passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act.*] So help me GOD.'

Comptroller may have a Deputy, in case of Necessity.

V. And be it further enacted, That the said Comptroller of Corn Returns shall at all Times execute the Duties of such his Office in Person, and not by Deputy; but that it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty to appoint a fit and proper Person who shall act as Deputy Comptroller of Corn Returns in case of the Sickness or other Incapacity of the said Comptroller, or in case he the said Comptroller should, with the Permission of the Lords of the said Committee of Privy Council, be absent from *London;* and all and every the Powers hereby vested in the said Comptroller of Corn Returns, and all and every the Acts, Matters, and Things hereby directed to be done and performed by him, shall be vested in and shall and may be done and performed by any such Deputy as aforesaid, during the Continuance of any such Sickness, Incapacity, or Absence as aforesaid of the said Comptroller of Corn Returns, and such Deputy shall hold such his Office during His Majesty's Pleasure, and not otherwise, and shall receive and be paid such Salary and Allowances as to His Majesty shall seem meet.

Comptroller to send and receive Letters free of Postage.

VI. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Comptroller of Corn Returns to send by the Post to any Part of the United Kingdom, and to receive by the Post from any Place whatever, any Letters or Packets relating exclusively to the Duties of such his Office, free from all Duties of Postage; provided that the Words "On His Majesty's Service" shall be written or printed on the Outside of each of the said Letters or Packets so sent by the said Comptroller of Corn Returns; and that such Words shall be subscribed with the Name of the said Comptroller of Corn Returns in his Handwriting; and also provided that it shall be lawful for His Majesty's Postmaster General, or for his Secretary or other Officer authorized by him in that Behalf, to examine and search all such Letters and Packets, and to charge against the Person or Persons sending the same Treble Postage on any Letter or Packet which may be so sent to or by the said Comptroller of Corn Returns contrary to the Provisions of this Act.

Appointment of an Inspector for London.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, at a Court to be holden for that Purpose, and they, or the Majority of them present at such Court, are hereby authorized and required to nominate and appoint some fit and proper Person to be Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London;* and it shall be lawful for the said Lord Mayor and Aldermen, from Time to Time as Occasion may require, upon any Misbehaviour or Neglect of Duty of any such Inspector, to remove him from such his Office by any Order to be by them

them made at a Court to be specially convened and holden for that Purpose; and upon the Death, Resignation, permanent Incapacity, or Removal of any such Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, it shall and may be lawful for the said Lord Mayor and Aldermen, at a Court to be holden for that Purpose, and they, or a Majority of them present at any such Court, are hereby authorized and required to nominate and appoint some fit and proper Person to succeed to the said Office.

Appointment of a Deputy Inspector for London.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* shall at all Times execute the Duties of such his Office in Person and not by Deputy; but that in case of the Sickness or other temporary Incapacity of the said Inspector, it shall be lawful for the said Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London* to appoint some fit and proper Person to act as the Deputy of the said Inspector during the Continuance of any such Sickness or Incapacity as aforesaid of that Officer, and no longer; and all and every the Powers hereby vested in the said Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, and all and every the Acts, Matters, and Things hereby directed to be done and performed by him, shall and may be vested in and be done and performed by any such Deputy as aforesaid, during the Continuance of such his Appointment.

Inspector or Deputy Inspector for London not to be a Miller, Dealer, &c.

IX. And be it further enacted, That no Person shall be eligible or shall be appointed to the Office of Inspector or Deputy Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, who within Six Months next preceding the Time of any such Appointment shall have been engaged in Trade or Business as a Miller, Maltster, or Corn Factor, or who during that Period shall, as a Merchant, Clerk, Agent, or otherwise, have bought Corn for Sale, or for the Sale of Meal, Flour, Malt, or Bread made or to be made thereof; and if any Inspector or Deputy Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* shall, during his Continuance in such his Office, engage in Trade or Business as a Miller, Maltster, or Corn Factor, or shall, as a Merchant, Clerk, Agent, or otherwise, buy Corn for Sale, or for the Sale of Meal, Flour, Malt, or Bread made or to be made thereof, he shall in manner aforesaid be removed from such his Office, and from and after the Time of such Removal shall become incapable of acting as Inspector of Corn Returns under this Act.

Inspector's Oath.

X. And be it further enacted, That every Inspector or Deputy Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* shall, within One Week after such his Nomination and Appointment, take and subscribe, before the Lord Mayor or One of the Aldermen of the City of *London*, an Oath, which Oath the said Lord Mayor or Alderman is hereby authorized and required to administer, in the following Words; (that is to say),

'I *A.B.* do swear, That I will at all Times, as Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* [*or*, as Deputy Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London, as the Case may be*], make due and true Returns to the Comptroller of Corn Returns appointed by virtue of an Act passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of

'King

King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act*]; and that I will in all Things, to the best of my Skill and Judgment, conform myself to the Directions of the said Act.

'So help me GOD.'

Appointment of Inspector for London to be enrolled.

XI. And be it further enacted, That every Nomination and Appointment so to be made as aforesaid, of any Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, shall be enrolled at the next Sessions of the Peace to be holden in and for the said City, together with a Certificate of the Oath aforesaid having been taken, such Certificate being signed by the Lord Mayor or Aldermen before whom such Oath shall have been so taken; and the said Enrolment, or a Copy thereof, certified under the Hand of the Clerk of the Peace for the said City to be a true Copy, shall, for all Intents and Purposes, be and be deemed and taken to be good and conclusive Evidence of any such Appointment as aforesaid having been duly made.

Corn Factors in London to make Declaration to the Lord Mayor, &c. before carrying on Trade.

XII. And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall carry on Trade or Business in the City of *London*, or within Five Miles from the *Royal Exchange* in the said City, as a Corn Factor, or as an Agent employed in the Sale of *British* Corn, and every Person who shall sell any *British* Corn within the present Corn Exchange in *Mark Lane* in the said City, or within any other Building or Place which now is or may hereafter be used within the City of *London*, or within Five Miles from the *Royal Exchange* in the said City, for such and the like Purposes for which the said Corn Exchange in *Mark Lane* hath been and is used, shall, before he or they shall carry on Trade or Business, or sell any Corn in manner aforesaid, make and deliver to the Lord Mayor, or One of the Aldermen of the City of *London*, a Declaration in the following Words; (that is to say),

Form of Declaration.

'I *A. B.* do declare, That the Returns to be by me made conformably to an Act passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act*] of the Quantities and Prices of *British* Corn which henceforth shall be by or for me sold or delivered, shall, to the best of my Knowledge and Belief, contain the whole Quantity, and no more, of the Corn *bonâ fide* sold and delivered by or for me within the Periods to which such Returns respectively shall refer, with the Prices of such Corn, and the Names of the Buyers respectively, and of the Persons for whom such Corn shall have been sold by me respectively; and to the best of my Judgment the said Return shall in all respects be conformable to the Provisions of the said Act.'

Certificate of Declaration to be delivered to Inspector.

Which Declaration shall be in Writing, and shall be subscribed with the Hand of the Person so making the same; and the Lord Mayor, or such Aldermen as aforesaid of the City of *London*, for the Time being, shall and he is hereby required to deliver a Certificate thereof, under his Hand, to the Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, to be by him registered in a Book to be by him provided and kept for that Purpose.

Corn Factors Returns in London.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That every such Corn Factor and other Person as aforesaid, who is herein-before required to make, and who

who shall have made such Declaration as aforesaid, shall, and he or she is hereby required to return or cause to be returned, on *Wednesday* in each and every Week, to the Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, an Account in Writing, signed with his or her own Name, or the Name of his or her Agent duly authorized in that Behalf, of the Quantities of each respective Sort of *British* Corn by him or her sold during the Week ending on and including the next preceding *Tuesday*, with the Prices thereof, and the Amount of every Parcel, with the total Quantity and Value of each Sort of Corn, and by what Measure or Weight the same was sold, and the Names of the Buyers thereof, and of the Persons for and on behalf of whom such Corn was sold; and it shall and may be lawful for any such Inspector of Corn Returns to deliver to any Person making or tendering any such Returns, a Notice in Writing, requiring him or her, to declare and set forth therein where and to whom and in what Manner any such *British* Corn was delivered to the Purchaser or Purchasers thereof; and every Person to whom any such Notice shall be so delivered shall, and he or she is hereby required to comply therewith, and to declare and set forth in such his or her Return the several Particulars aforesaid.

Appointment and Removal of Country Inspectors.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the Justices of the Peace for the several and respective Counties, Ridings or Divisions thereof, in which the several Cities and Towns herein-before enumerated are situate, other than and except the City of *London*, shall and they are hereby authorized and required, at some Quarter Sessions held within or nearest to each of the said several Cities and Towns, to nominate and appoint some fit and proper Person residing within or near each and every of the said Cities and Towns respectively, to be the Inspector of Corn Returns for such City or Town, and from Time to Time, as Occasion may require, upon the Death, Resignation, or Removal of any such Inspector of Corn Returns, to appoint a fit and proper Person to succeed to such his Office; and it shall be lawful for the said Justices of the Peace, by any Order or Orders to be by them made for that Purpose at any such Quarter Sessions, or at any Adjournment thereof, upon any Misbehaviour or Neglect of Duty of any such Inspector of Corn Returns as aforesaid, or for any other good and sufficient Cause to them appearing, to remove from such his Office any such Officer; and in case of the Sickness, Absence, or temporary Incapacity of any such Inspector of Corn Returns, it shall be lawful for any Two or more of the said Justices, at any Petty Sessions of the Peace to be holden at such City or Town, or within the County, Riding, or Division thereof in which the same is situate, to nominate and appoint a fit and proper Person to act as and be Inspector of Corn Returns for such City or Town until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden as aforesaid, and no longer.

Inspectors for exempt Jurisdictions.

XV. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That within each and every of the Cities and Towns aforesaid (other than the City of *London*), being a County of itself, or having an exempt Jurisdiction, and not contributing to the Rates of the County, Riding, or Division in which the same is situate, the Mayor or other chief Officer, and

the Justices of the Peace assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of any such City or Town, or at any Adjournment thereof, shall have, enjoy, and exercise all and every the Powers herein-before vested as aforesaid in the Justices of the Peace for the several and respective Counties, and Ridings or Divisions thereof, as aforesaid, assembled at their General Quarter Sessions; and such Mayor or other chief Officer shall, within such last-mentioned Cities and Towns, have, enjoy, and exercise the Powers herein-before vested as aforesaid in the Justices of the Peace for the said several and respective Counties, Ridings or Divisions thereof, assembled at any Petty Sessions.

Country Inspectors not to be Millers, Dealers, &c.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That no Person shall be eligible or shall be appointed to the Office of Inspector of Corn Returns under this Act, for any of the Cities and Towns aforesaid, who within Twelve Calendar Months next preceding the Time of any such Appointment hath been engaged in Trade or Business as a Miller, Maltster, or Corn Factor, or who during that Period hath, as a Merchant, Clerk, Agent, or otherwise, bought Corn for Sale, or for the Sale of Meal, Flour, Malt, or Bread made or to be made thereof; and if any Person, who shall in manner aforesaid be nominated and appointed to be the Inspector of Corn Returns for any such City or Town, shall during his Continuance in such Office engage in Trade or Business as a Miller, Maltster, or Corn Factor, or shall, as a Merchant, Clerk, Agent, or otherwise, buy Corn for Sale, or for the Sale of Meal, Flour, Malt, or Bread made or to be made thereof, he shall in manner aforesaid be removed from such his Office, and from and after the Time of such Removal shall become incapable of acting as an Inspector of Corn Returns under this Act.

Country Inspectors to take an Oath.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That every Person so appointed Inspector of Corn Returns for any City or Town other than the City of *London*, shall, before he enters on the Discharge of the Duties of such his Office, take and subscribe, before some One Justice of the Peace for the County, Riding, Division, City, or Town within which he shall reside, the Oath, or, being one of the People called *Quakers*, the Affirmation following, (which Oath or Affirmation all such Justices are hereby authorized and required to administer); (that is to say),

Form of Oath.

'I *A. B.* do swear [*or* affirm], That I will at all Times, as Inspector of Corn Returns for the City [*or* Town] of make due and true Returns to the Comptroller of Corn Returns appointed by virtue of an Act passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act*] of the Quantities and Prices of *British* Corn in the said City [*or* Town] of according to the Accounts to be delivered to me in pursuance of the said Act; and that I will in all Things, to the best of my Skill and Judgment, conform myself to the Directions of the said Act.'

Country Inspector's Appointment,

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That every Nomination and Appointment so to be made as aforesaid, of any Inspector of Corn Returns

with the Oath and Certificate, to be enrolled

Returns for any of the Cities and Towns aforesaid, other than the City of *London*, shall be enrolled at some Sessions of the Peace to be holden in such Cities and Towns respectively, or in the respective Counties, Ridings or Divisions thereof, in which such Towns are situate, or at some Adjournment of such Sessions, together with a Certificate of the Oath aforesaid having been taken by such Inspector of Corn Returns, such Certificate being signed by the Justice of the Peace before whom such Oath shall have been so taken; and the said Enrolment, or a Copy thereof certified under the Hand of the Clerk of the Peace for any such City or Town, County, Riding, or Division, shall for all Intents and Purposes be and be deemed and taken to be good and conclusive Evidence of any such Appointment as aforesaid having been duly made.

Corn Factors, Brewers, Carriers, &c. before carrying on Trade to make the following Declaration.

XIX. And be it further enacted, That every Person who shall deal in *British* Corn at or within any such City or Town as aforesaid, or who shall at or within any such City or Town engage in or carry on the Trade or Business of a Corn Factor, Miller, Maltster, Brewer, or Distiller, or who shall be the Owner or Proprietor, or Part Owner or Proprietor, of any Stage Coaches, Waggons, Carts, or other Carriages carrying Goods or Passengers for Hire, to and from any such City or Town, and each and every Person who, as a Merchant, Clerk, Agent, or otherwise, shall purchase at any such City or Town any *British* Corn for Sale, or for the Sale of Meal, Flour, Malt, or Bread made or to be made thereof, shall, before he or she shall so deal in *British* Corn at any such City or Town, or shall engage in or carry on any such Trade or Business as aforesaid, or shall purchase any *British* Corn for any such Purpose as aforesaid, at or within any such City or Town, make and deliver, in manner herein-after mentioned, a Declaration in the following Words; (that is to say,)

'I *A. B.* do hereby declare, That the Returns to be by me made conformably to the Act passed in the Eighth Year of the Reign of King *George* the Fourth, intituled [*here set forth the Title of this Act*] of the Quantities and Prices of *British* Corn which henceforward shall by or for me be bought, shall to the best of my Knowledge and Belief contain the whole Quantity, and no more, of the *British* Corn *bonâ fide* bought for or by me within the Periods to which such Returns respectively shall refer, with the Prices of such Corn, and the Names of the Sellers respectively; and to the best of my Judgment the said Returns shall in all respects be conformable to the Provisions of the said Act.'

Which Declaration shall be in Writing, and shall be subscribed with the Hand of the Person so making the same, and shall by him or her, or by his or her Agent, be delivered to the Mayor or Chief Magistrate, or to some Justice of the Peace for such City or Town, or for the County, Riding, or Division in which the same is situate, who are hereby required to deliver a Certificate thereof to the Inspector of Corn Returns for any such City or Town as aforesaid, to be by him registered in a Book to be by him provided and kept for that Purpose.

Magistrates to deliver Certificate thereof to Inspector.

XX. And

XX. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, or for any such other City or Town as aforesaid, to serve upon and deliver to any Person buying or selling Corn in any such City or Town, and who is not within the Terms and Meaning of this present Act specially required to make any such Declaration as aforesaid, a Notice in Writing under the Hand of such Inspector, requiring him to make such Declaration as aforesaid; and any Person upon whom such Notice shall be served as aforesaid shall and he is hereby required to comply with such Notice, and to make such Declaration in such and the same Manner in all respects as if he or she had been specially required to make the same by the express Provision of this present Act. Inspector empowered to require such Declaration.

XXI. And be it further enacted, That all Persons who are hereinbefore required to make, and who shall have made such Declaration as aforesaid, shall and they are hereby required, on the first Market Day which shall be holden in each and every Week within each and every such City or Town as aforesaid, at or within which they shall respectively deal in Corn, or engage in or carry on any such Trade or Business as aforesaid, or purchase any Corn for any such Purpose as aforesaid, to return or cause to be returned to the Inspector of Corn Returns for such City or Town an Account in Writing, signed with their Names respectively, of the Amount of each and every Parcel of each respective Sort of *British* Corn so by them respectively bought during the Week ending on and including the Day next preceding such first Market Day as aforesaid, with the Price thereof, and by what Weight or Measure the same was so bought by them, with the Names of the Sellers of each of the said Parcels respectively, with the Names of the Person or Persons, if any, other than the Person making such Return, for or on account of whom the same was so bought and sold; and it shall and may be lawful for any such Inspector of Corn Returns to deliver to any Person making or tendering any such Return a Notice in Writing requiring him or her to declare and set forth therein where and by whom and in what Manner any such *British* Corn was delivered to him or her; and every Person to whom any such Notice shall be so delivered shall, and he or she is hereby required to comply therewith, and to declare and set forth in such his or her Return, or in a separate Statement in Writing, the several Particulars aforesaid. Returns.

XXII. And be it further enacted, That no Inspector of Corn Returns in the City of *London*, nor in any of the Towns aforesaid, shall include in the Returns so to be made by them as aforesaid to the Comptroller of Corn Returns, any Account of Sales or Purchases of Corn, unless such Inspector shall have received satisfactory Proof that the Person or Persons tendering such Account hath made the Declaration hereinbefore required, and hath delivered the same to the Mayor or Chief Magistrate, or to some Justice of the Peace of the City or Town for which such Inspector shall be so appointed to act, or to some Justice of the Peace for the County, Riding, or Division in which such City or Town is situate. Inspector only to include such Sales as he receives a satisfactory Declaration of.

Inspectors' Returns.

XXIII. And be it further enacted, That every such Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, and for the several other Cities and Towns aforesaid, shall duly and regularly enter in a Book to be by him provided and kept for that Purpose, the several Accounts of the Quantities and Prices of Corn returned to him by such Persons respectively as aforesaid; and every such Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, and for the several other Cities and Towns aforesaid, shall, in each and every Week, return to the Comptroller of Corn Returns an Account of the Weekly Quantities and Prices of the several Sorts of *British* Corn sold in the City or Town for which he is appointed Inspector, according to the Returns so made to him as aforesaid, and in such Form as shall be from Time to Time prescribed and directed by the said Comptroller of Corn Returns; and the said Returns shall be so made to the said Comptroller by the Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* on *Saturday* in each Week, and by the Inspector of Corn Returns for the several other Cities and Towns as aforesaid within Three Days next after the first Market Day holden in each and every Week in any such City or Town.

Mode of ascertaining Average Prices.

XXIV. And for the Purpose of ascertaining the aggregate Average Prices of *British* Corn by which the Admission of Foreign Corn for Home Consumption into the United Kingdom from Parts beyond the Seas is to be regulated, be it further enacted, That the Average Prices of all *British* Corn, by which the Importation of all Foreign Corn, Meal, or Flour, for Home Consumption, shall in future be regulated, shall be made up and computed at Four Quarterly Periods in each and every Year, in manner following; (that is to say), the said Receiver of Corn Returns shall, within Seven Days after the Fifteenth Day of *February*, the Fifteenth Day of *May*, the Fifteenth Day of *August*, and the Fifteenth Day of *November*, in each Year, add together the Total Quantities of each Sort of *British* Corn, and also the Total Prices for which the same were sold, as shall appear from the Returns received by the said Receiver of Corn Returns in the Six last Weeks immediately preceding the said Fifteenth Day of *February*, Fifteenth Day of *May*, Fifteenth Day of *August*, Fifteenth Day of *November*, in each Year, and shall divide the said Total Prices by the said Total Quantities of each respective Sort of Corn, and the Sum produced thereby shall be deemed and taken to be the aggregate Average Price of each such Sort of Corn in and for the Six Weeks immediately preceding the above-mentioned Periods respectively, by which the Importation of Foreign Corn, Meal, and Flour, for Home Consumption, or the taking out the same from the Warehouse for Home Consumption, shall be governed and regulated in the United Kingdom.

Average Prices to be published in Gazette and transmitted to Officers of Customs.

XXV. And be it further enacted, That the said Receiver of Corn Returns shall enter the said Accounts of the aggregate Average Prices of each Sort of *British* Corn in a Book, as soon as he shall have made up and computed the same in the Manner herein-before directed, and shall at the same Time cause the same to be published in the *London Gazette*, and shall transmit a Certificate thereof to the Collector or Chief Officer of the Customs at each of the several Ports of *Great*

Britain, and to the Commissioners of Customs in *Ireland*, who are hereby required forthwith to transmit Copies thereof to the Collectors or other Chief Officers of the Customs in the several Ports in *Ireland*; and the Importation of each Sort of Foreign Corn, Meal, and Flour, for Home Consumption in the United Kingdom, and the taking the same out of Warehouse for the Purpose of being so consumed, shall be governed and regulated by the said aggregate Average Prices, until new Average Prices shall, under the Provisions of the said above-recited Act of the Fifty-fifth Year of His said late Majesty, or under the Provisions of this Act, be made up and computed, and a Certificate thereof be received by such Collectors or other Chief Officers.

For Two Weeks after the passing of this Act the Duties shall be regulated according to recited Act.

XXVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That for the Space of Two Weeks next after the passing of this present Act the Amount of the Duties payable to His Majesty upon Corn imported into the United Kingdom from Parts beyond the Seas shall be regulated by the last aggregate Average Price of *British* Corn which shall have been made up and published under and in pursuance of the Act so passed as aforesaid in the First and Second Year of His Majesty's Reign.

The present Inspectors, &c. to perform their Duties until Appointments under this Act.

XXVII. And whereas some Time must necessarily elapse after this Act shall have come into operation before Inspectors of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, and the several other Cities and Towns aforesaid, can be appointed by virtue of this Act; be it further enacted, That each and every Inspector of Corn Returns, or other Person who, at or immediately before the Time when this Act shall come into operation, shall hold an Appointment as Inspector of Corn Returns, or any other Appointment under and by virtue of the Act so passed as aforesaid in the First and Second Year of His Majesty's Reign, or who shall be discharging any Duties required of him by such last-mentioned Act, shall and he is hereby authorized and required forthwith to act as Inspector of Corn Returns under and by virtue of this present Act, and to discharge the several Duties of and belonging to such his former Appointment, in such and the same Manner, and as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as if he had been appointed to be such Inspector of Corn Returns, or had held any such other Appointment as aforesaid under and by virtue of this present Act, until a new Inspector of Corn Returns shall be appointed, and until he or some other Person shall be nominated under this present Act to perform and discharge the Duties theretofore performed and discharged by him: Provided always, that the Person appointed to act as Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, by virtue of the Act so passed as aforesaid in the First and Second Year of His Majesty's Reign, shall, without further Appointment, continue to act as such Inspector under this Act until he shall die, or resign such his Office, or be removed therefrom by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, in manner aforesaid.

Proviso for Inspector for London.

Duty of Comptroller as to untrue Returns.

XXVIII. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That if the said Comptroller of Corn Returns shall at any Time see Cause to believe that any Return so to be made as aforesaid to any such Inspector of Corn

Corn Returns for the City of *London*, or for any other such City or Town as aforesaid, is fraudulent or untrue, the said Comptroller shall and he is hereby required, with all convenient Expedition, to lay before the Lords of the said Committee of Privy Council a Statement of the Grounds of such his Belief; and if, upon Consideration of any such Statement, the said Lords of the said Committee shall direct the said Comptroller to omit any such Return in the Computation of such aggregate Weekly Average Price as aforesaid, then and in that Case, but not otherwise, the said Comptroller of Corn Returns shall and he is hereby authorized to omit any such Return in the Computation of such aggregate Weekly Average Price.

Corn Factors who have made former Declarations to comply with Provisions of this Act.

XXIX. And whereas some Time must necessarily elapse after this Act shall come into operation before such Corn Factors, Dealers, and other Persons as aforesaid, can make the several Declarations herein-before required to be made by them; be it therefore enacted, That any Corn Factor, Dealer, or other Person, who, at or previously to the Time when this present Act shall come into operation, shall have made the Declaration required of him in and by the said Act so passed as aforesaid in the First and Second Year of His Majesty's Reign, shall and he or she is hereby required forthwith to make all such Returns to such several Inspectors of Corn Returns as aforesaid, and to perform and do all such Acts, Matters, and Things, and to comply with and observe all such Rules and Regulations as are hereby required or directed of or in regard to Persons who have made any Declaration required of them in and by the present Act, although he or she may not have actually made such last-mentioned Declaration.

Inspectors Books to be examined by Order of the Privy Council, but not otherwise.

XXX. And be it further enacted, That the Comptroller of Corn Returns shall and he is hereby authorized from Time to Time, in pursuance of any Instructions which he shall receive in that Behalf from the Lords of the said Committee of Privy Council, to issue to the several Inspectors of Corn Returns any general or special Directions respecting the Inspection by any Person or Persons of the Books so directed as aforesaid to be kept by every such Inspector of Corn Returns; and no such Inspector as aforesaid shall permit or suffer any Person to inspect any such Book, or to peruse or transcribe any Entry therein, except in compliance with some such general or special Directions from the said Comptroller of Corn Returns as aforesaid.

A Copy of the Inspector's Return to be put up in the Market Place.

XXXI. And be it further enacted, That each and every Inspector of Corn Returns shall and he is hereby required on each and every Market Day to put up or cause to be put up in the Market Place of the City or Town for which he shall be appointed Inspector, or if there shall be no Market Place in such City or Town, then in some other conspicuous Place therein, a Copy of the last Return made by him to the Comptroller of Corn Returns, omitting the Names of the Parties who may have sold and bought the said Corn; and every such Inspector shall also again put up such Account on the Market Day immediately following that on which it shall first have been put up, in case the same shall from Accident or any other Cause have been

been removed, and shall take due Care that the same shall remain up for Public Inspection until a new Account for the ensuing Week shall have been prepared and set up.

Salaries of Inspectors.

XXXII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, by any Warrant or Warrants to be for that Purpose from Time to Time made and issued, to settle and allow such reasonable and moderate Salaries as shall be paid and payable to the said several Inspectors of Corn Returns for the City of *London*, and for the several other Cities and Towns aforesaid, for and in consideration of the Duties so to be performed by them; provided that the Salary so to be allowed to the Inspector of Corn Returns in and for the City of *London* shall not in any One Year exceed the Sum of Three hundred Pounds, in consideration of which Salary he shall and is hereby required to keep and maintain a proper and convenient Apartment or Place of Business at or near to the said Corn Exchange in *Mark Lane*, for transacting the Duties of such his Office, and to defray all incidental Charges and Expences of and attendant upon such his Office: Provided also, that the Salary to be granted to any Inspector of Corn Returns of any other of the Cities and Towns aforesaid shall not exceed Fifty Pounds in any One Year for such Inspector.

Regulations as to Payment of Salaries.

XXXIII. And be it further enacted, That the Salaries aforesaid shall be paid by the Collector or other Chief Officer of the Customs or of the Excise in or for the City or Town for which each and every of the said Inspectors respectively may be so appointed, by Four equal quarterly Payments; provided that no such quarterly Payments aforesaid shall be made, unless the Inspector of Corn Returns claiming the same shall first produce and deliver to such Collector or other Chief Officer of the Customs or Excise, a Certificate under the Hand of the Comptroller of Corn Returns, certifying that such Inspector hath duly made the Returns required of him by this present Act, during the Period in respect of which any such Payment is to be made, and which Certificate such Comptroller is hereby required, on the Application of any such Inspector as aforesaid, to grant, unless any such Inspector shall, without good and sufficient Cause, have neglected or omitted to make such Returns as aforesaid, or some of them: Provided also, that if the Duties of the said Office of Inspector of Corn Returns for the City of *London* shall, during any such Quarter of a Year as aforesaid, have been discharged wholly or in part by a Deputy, the Comptroller of Corn Returns shall, in such Certificate as aforesaid, specify the Length of Time during which such Deputy hath so acted, and the Whole, or a proportionate Part, as the Case may be, of any such quarterly Payment shall in that Case be paid to the said Deputy; and if the Duties of Inspector of Corn Returns for any other of the Cities and Towns aforesaid shall during any such Quarter of a Year be performed successively by Two or more Persons, the Comptroller of Corn Returns shall in like Manner specify the Length of Time during which each such Person hath so performed the said Duties, and a proportionate Part of any such quarterly Payment shall

in that case be paid to the several Persons respectively performing the said Duties.

Penalties.

XXXIV. And be it further enacted, That if any Person who is hereby required to make and deliver the Declaration herein-before particularly mentioned and set forth, or either of them, shall not make and deliver such Declaration or Declarations at the Time, and in the Form and Manner, and to the Person or Persons herein-before directed and prescribed in that Behalf, every Person so offending shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds for each and every Calendar Month during which he shall neglect or delay to make and deliver any such Declaration; and if any Person who is herein-before required to make any Return to any such Inspector of Corn Returns as aforesaid, shall not make such Return to such Inspector at the Time and in the Form and Manner herein-before directed and prescribed, every such Offender shall, for such his Offence, forfeit and pay the Sum of Thirty Pounds; and if any Person shall make any false and fraudulent Statement in any such Return, or shall include or procure or cause to be included in any such Return any *British* Corn which was not truly and *bonâ fide* sold and delivered, or bought and delivered to, by, or on behalf of the Person or Persons in any such Return mentioned in that Behalf, in the Quantity and for the Price therein stated and set forth, every such Offender shall, for such his Offence, forfeit and pay a Sum not less than Fifty Pounds nor more than Five hundred Pounds.

Penalties above mentioned may be sued for in like Manner as under 6 G. 4. c. 107.

XXXV. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Penalties and Forfeitures aforesaid shall and may be prosecuted, sued for, recovered, and applied by such Persons, and in such and the same Manner in all respects as any Penalties or Forfeitures incurred, or which may be incurred, under a certain Act passed in the Sixth Year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for the general Regulation of the Customs*.

Recovery of Penalties under 50*l*.

XXXVI. And be it further enacted, That all and every the Penalties aforesaid, not exceeding the Sum of Fifty Pounds, shall and may be prosecuted, sued for, and recovered by and to the Use of any Person who will sue for the same, before any Two Justices of the Peace acting in and for the City, Town, County, Riding, or Division within which the Offence shall have been committed; and upon Conviction of any such Offender before any such Justices of the Peace, either by the Confession of the Party offending, or by the Oath of any credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath such Justices are in every such Case hereby fully authorized to administer), the Amount of such Penalties and Forfeitures shall be levied, together with the Costs attending the Information and Conviction, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Party or Parties offending, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice (which Warrant such Justice is hereby empowered and required to grant); and the Overplus (if any), after such Penalties, Forfeitures, and Fines, and the Charges of such Distress and Sale, are deducted, shall be returned upon Demand unto the Owner or Owners of such Goods and Chattels;

Chattels; and in case such Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures shall not be forthwith paid upon Conviction, then it shall be lawful for such Justice to order the Offender or Offenders so convicted to be detained and kept in safe Custody until Return can be conveniently made to such Warrant of Distress, unless the Offender or Offenders shall give sufficient Security, to the Satisfaction of such Justice, for his or their Appearance before such Justice on such Day or Days as shall be appointed for the Return of such Warrant of Distress, such Day or Days not being more than Seven Days from the Time of taking any such Security, and which Security the said Justice is hereby empowered to take by way of Recognizance or otherwise; but if upon the Return of such Warrant it shall appear that no sufficient Distress can be had thereupon, then it shall be lawful for any such Justice of the Peace as aforesaid, and he is hereby authorized and required, by Warrant or Warrants under his Hand and Seal, to cause such Offender or Offenders to be committed to the Common Gaol or House of Correction of the City, Town, County, Riding, or Division where the Offender shall be or reside, there to remain, without Bail or Mainprize, for any Term not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unless such Penalties, Forfeitures, and Fines, and all reasonable Charges attending the same, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

Mitigation of Penalties.

XXXVII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Justice or Justices of the Peace before whom any Person shall be convicted of any Offence against this Act, if he or they shall think proper, to mitigate or reduce the Penalty incurred by such Person, so as such Reduction or Mitigation do not exceed Two Thirds of the Penalty to which such Person would be liable under this Act.

Compelling the Attendance of Witnesses.

XXXVIII. And be it further enacted, That if any Person shall be summoned as a Witness to give Evidence before any Justices of the Peace touching any Matter of Fact contained in any Information or Complaint for any Offence against this Act, either on the Part of the Prosecutor or of the Person or Persons accused, shall, after a reasonable Sum of Money for his or her Charges and Expences shall have been paid or been tendered to him or her, refuse or neglect to appear at the Time and Place for that Purpose appointed, without a reasonable Excuse for his, her, or their Neglect, or appearing shall refuse to be examined on Oath and give Evidence before such Justice of the Peace, then and in either of such Cases such Person shall forfeit for every such Offence any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, to be recovered in the Manner herein-before provided for the Recovery of the several Penalties aforesaid.

Corn to be measured as heretofore.

XXXIX. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend to alter the present Practice of measuring Corn, or any of the Articles aforesaid, to be shipped from or to be landed in the Port of *London*, but that the same shall be measured by the sworn Meters appointed for that Purpose, by whose Certificate the Searchers or other proper Officers of His Majesty's Customs are hereby empowered and required to certify the Quantity of Corn or other

Proviso for Rights of the City of London.

other Articles as aforesaid so shipped or landed; and that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to lessen or take away the Rights and Privileges of, or the Tolls or Duties due and payable to the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of *London*, or to the Mayor of the said City for the Time being, or to take away the Privileges of any Persons lawfully deriving Title from or under them.

Limitation of Actions.

XL. And be it further enacted, That if any Action or Suit shall be brought or commenced against any Person or Persons for any thing by him, her, or them done by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, such Action or Suit shall be commenced within Three Months next after the Matter or Thing done, and shall be laid in the proper County, and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon; and if afterwards a Verdict shall pass for the Defendant or Defendants, or the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall discontinue his, her, or their Action or Actions, or be nonsuited, or Judgment shall be given against him, her, or them, upon Demurrer or otherwise, then such Defendant or Defendants shall have Treble Costs awarded to him, her, or them against such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

What shall be deemed British Corn.

XLI. Provided always, That all Corn or Grain, the Produce of the United Kingdom, shall be deemed and taken to be *British* Corn for the Purposes of this Act.

Provisions of this Act, as to making Weekly Returns, may be applied to any Town in the United Kingdom.

Proviso.

XLII. And be it further enacted, That for the Purpose of ascertaining the Average Price of Corn and Grain sold within the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, it shall and may be lawful for His Majesty, by any Order or Orders to be by him made by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to direct that the Provisions of this Act, so far as regards the Appointment of Inspectors and the making of Weekly Returns, shall be applicable to any Cities or Towns within the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* which shall be named in any such Order or Orders in Council: Provided always, that the Returns so received from such Towns shall not be admitted into the Averages made up for the Purpose of regulating the bringing into Home Consumption Foreign Corn, Grain, Meal, or Flour.

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