

sum of three hundred pounds, part of the aforesaid sum of ten thousand pounds, shall be applied for the discharge of other debts owing from this province to persons that have served or shall serve them, by order of this court, in such matters and things where there is no establishment nor any certain sum assigned them for that purpose, and for paper, writing and printing for this court; and the further sum of fifteen hundred pounds, part of the aforesaid sum of ten thousand pounds, shall be applied for the payment of his majesty's council and house of representatives, serving in the general court during the several sessions for this present year.

£200 for debts where there is no establishment.

£1,500 for the pay of the members.

*And whereas* there are sometimes contingent and unforeseen charges that demand prompt pay,—

*Be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 2.] That the sum of one hundred pounds, the remaining part of the aforesaid sum of ten thousand pounds, be applied to pay such contingent charges, and for no other purpose whatsoever.

*And be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 3.] That the treasurer is hereby directed and ordered to pay the sum of ten thousand pounds out of such appropriations as shall be directed to by warrant, and no other; and the secretary, to whom it belongs to keep the muster-rolls and accompts of charge, shall lay before the house of representatives, when they direct, such muster-rolls and accompts, after payment thereof. [*Passed December 18, 1753; published January 26, 1754.*]

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## CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT FOR GRANTING THE SUM OF FOURTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS, FOR THE SUPPORT OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNOUR.

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council and House of Representatives,*

THAT the sum of fourteen hundred pounds be and hereby is granted unto his most excellent majesty, to be paid out of the publick treasury to his excellency William Shirley, Esq<sup>[1]</sup>, captain-general and governour-in-chief in and over his majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay, for his past services, and further to enable him to go on in managing the publick affairs. [*Passed December 20, 1753; published January 26, 1754.*]

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## CHAPTER 26.

AN ACT FOR IMPOWERING THE PROVINCE TREASURER TO BORROW THE SUM OF FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS, AND FOR APPLYING THE SAME FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE BILLS OF CREDIT OF THIS PROVINCE THAT ARE STILL OUTSTANDING, AND FOR MAKING PROVISION FOR THE REPAYMENT OF THE SUM SO BORROWED.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the provision made by this court to draw in and sink the bills of credit of this government, there is still a considerable quantity outstanding, to the great prejudice of trade and commerce,—

Preamble.

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council and House of Representatives,*

[SECT. 1.] That the treasurer of this province be and hereby is impowered to borrow from such person or persons as shall appear ready

Treasurer empowered to borrow £5,000.

to lend the same, a sum not exceeding five thousand pounds, in mill'd dollars, at six shillings apiece, or silver at six shillings and eightpence per ounce; and the sum so borrowed shall be a stock in the treasury, to be applied for the redemption of said bills of credit, in manner as in this act is after directed; and for every sum so borrowed, the treasurer shall give a receipt in the form following; viz.,—

Form of treasurer's receipt.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay,                    day of                    17                    , received from                    the sum of                    pounds, for the use and service of the province of the Massachusetts Bay; and in behalf of said province, I do hereby promise and oblige myself and successors in the office of treasurer, to repay the said                    , his heirs or assigns, on or before the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five, the aforesaid sum of                    pounds, with interest for the same, at and after the rate of six per cent per annum.                    Witness my hand, A. B., Treasurer.

—and no receipt shall be given for less than twenty pounds.

*And be it further enacted,*

Bills of credit to be exchanged from March 1, to June 1, 1754.

[SECT. 2.] That the treasurer of the province be and hereby is impowred and directed, from the first day of March next until the first day of June following, to receive from the possessors the bills of credit of this province; which bills he shall keep separate from those that he shall receive to the first day of March next, of constables, collectors, sheriffs and excise-masters; and in case he shall suspect any bill or bills to be counterfeit, he is hereby impowred and directed to stop such bill or bills, writing on the said bill or bills the person's name of whom he received it, or them, for the further direction of this court.

*And be it further enacted,*

Bills to be exchanged for silver.

[SECT. 3.] That the treasurer of the province, immediately upon his receiving the bills as aforesaid, not suspected by the treasurer to be counterfeit, shall discharge the same in mill'd dollars, at six shillings apiece, or silver at six shillings and eightpence per ounce, out of the monee borrowed for that purpose.

*And be it further enacted,*

Bills to be burned.

[SECT. 4.] That the treasurer shall sort the bills so received by him, in order, for a committee who shall hereafter be appointed by this court to tell and consume the same to ashes; which committee's receipt for the sum so told up and burnt shall be a sufficient discharge to the treasurer.

*And be it further enacted,*

Right of redeeming to cease after June 1, 1754.

[SECT. 5.] That from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, all right of redemption of said bills of credit of this province that may be then outstanding shall thenceforward determine and cease; and if any person or persons within this government shall, after the said first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, receive or pay away any of the bills aforesaid, he, she or they so offending, upon conviction thereof before any of his majesty's courts of record, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information; one half for the use of this government, and the other half to him or them that shall inform or sue for the same: *provided, always,* that if any possessor of said bills shall, within the term hereinbefore limited for that purpose, have tendered the same to the province treasurer to be exchanged, and there shall not be monies sufficient, of the sum to be borrowed as aforesaid, to exchange the same, in such case such possessor shall not be subject to the penalty aforesaid, nor be denied the privilege of having such bills redeemed so soon as the treasurer shall be furnished with monies sufficient for that purpose, if tendered within such term of time as may hereafter be limited for the same.

Penalty for paying or receiving bills after that time.

Proviso.

And in order to enable the treasurer effectually to discharge the receipts and obligations by him given in pursuance of this act,—

*Be it enacted,*

[SECT. 6.] That there be and hereby is granted unto his most excellent majesty a tax of five thousand pounds, to be levied on polls, and estates real and personal, within this province, according to such rules and in such proportion on the several towns and districts within the same, as shall be agreed on and ordered by the general court of this province at their session in May, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; which sum shall be paid into the treasury on or before the thirty-first day of March next after.

Tax of £5,000 granted.

And as an additional fund and security for drawing the said sum of five thousand pounds into the treasury again,—

*Be it enacted,*

[SECT. 7.] That the duty of impost, for the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, shall be applied towards discharging said receipts and obligations.

Fund.

*And be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 8.] That in case the general court shall not at their session in May, and before the twentieth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, agree and conclude upon an act apportioning the sum which by this act is engaged to be, in said year, apportioned, assessed and levied, that then, and in such case, each town and district within this province shall pay, by a tax to be levied on the polls, and estates both real and personal, within their districts, the same proportion of the said sum as the said towns and districts were taxed by the general court in the tax act then last preceeding: *saving* what relates to the pay of the representatives, which shall be assessed on the several towns they represent; and the province treasurer is hereby fully impowred and directed, some time in the month of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to issue and send forth his warrants, directed to the selectmen or assessors of each town and district within this province, requiring them to assess the polls, and estates both real and personal, within their several towns and districts, for their respective part and proportion of the sum before directed and engaged to be assessed, and also for the fines upon the several towns for not sending a representative; and the assessors, as also persons assessed, shall observe, be governed by and subject to all such rules and directions as have been given in the last preceeding tax act. [*Passed January 25; published January 26, 1754.*]

Rule for apportioning the tax in case no tax act shall be agreed on.

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## CHAPTER 27.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE PROPRIETORS OF STOW, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, SO OFTEN AS IT SHALL BE THOUGHT NECESSARY FOR THEM, TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE USE OF SAID PROPRIETORS; AND TO TAX AND ASSESS THE ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS OF SAID TOWN, AND THEIR HEIRS, IN EQUAL PROPORTION TO THEIR INTEREST WHEN THE FIRST LOT[S] WERE DIVIDED AND DRAWN.

WHEREAS the proprietors of the town of Stow, in the county of Middlesex, have long since divided almost all the common lands formerly belonging to the said proprietors, into severalty, and looked upon themselves, in a manner, divested of being any longer a propriety; *and whereas*, of late, there hath been a dispute, between the proprietors

Preamble.