

Penalty for neglect.

person mentioned in the warr[an]t, to whom the rate is payable, within twenty days after time is expired in the said warr[an]t, to be annexed to the rate or assessm[en]t to him committed for paym[en]t thereof, under the pain and penalty of any collector, so neglecting or refusing, the sum of twenty shillings for every month he shall neglect so to do; to be recovered as in and by this act is provided for refusal to accept of such office, and to be applied for the use and intent afores[ai]d; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority afores[ai]d,

[SECT. 4.] That the form of the oath to be administered to any person chosen collect[o]r shall be as follows:—

Form of the oath.

Whereas you, A. B., are chosen collector within the town of C., or precinct, district or parish within the town of C., for one year now following, and until other be chosen and sworn in your place; you do swear that you will faithfully, and with what speed you can, collect and levy all such rates or assessm[en]ts and sums of money, committed to you to collect, and for which you shall have sufficient warr[an]t, rendring account thereof, and paying in the same according to the direction in your warrant. So help you God.

[*Passed November 29; published December 19.*]

CHAPTER 7.

AN ACT FOR EXPLANATION OF, AND SUPPLEMENT TO, AN ACT REFERRING TO THE POOR, &c.

Preamble.
1692-3, chap. 28,
§ 7.
1703-4, chap. 14.
1710-11, chap. 6.
1717-18, chap. 2.

WHEREAS, the law for binding out poor children apprentices, is misconstrued by some to extend only to such children whose parents receive alms; for explanation whereof,—

Be it declared and enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in Gen[era]l[1] Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Children of poor people to be put to work or bound out.

[SECT. 1.] That the selectmen or overseers of the poor, in any town or district within this province, or the greater part of them, shall take order, and are hereby empower[ed], from time to time, by and with the assent of two justices of the peace, to set to work, or bind out apprentice, as they shall think convenient, all such children whose parents shall, by the selectmen or [the] overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, be thought unable to maintain them (wh[er]e[er] they receive alms or are chargeable to the place or not), so as that they be not cessed to publick taxes or assessm[en]ts for the province or town charges; male children till they come to the age of twenty-one years, and females till they come to the age of eighteen years, or time of marriage; which shall be as good and effectual in law, to all intents and purposes, as if any such child were of full age, and, by indenture or covenant, had bound him- or herself, or that their parents were consenting thereto; provision therein to be made for the instructing of children so bound out; to wit, males to read and write, females to read, as they respectively may be capable. And the selectmen or overseers of the poor shall enquire into the usage of children bound out by themselves or their predecessors, and endeavour to defend them from any wrongs or injuries.

And for the better preventing of idleness and loose [and] [or] disorderly living,—

Be it further declared and enacted be the authority afores[ai]d,

[SECT. 2.] That the selectmen or overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, be and are further empowerd, by and with the

Idle persons to be set to work.

assent of two justices of the peace, to set to work all such persons, married or unmarried, able of body, having no means to maintain them, that live idly, and use or exercise no ordinary and daily lawful trade or business to get their living by.

[SECT. 3.] And no single person, of either sex, under the age of twenty-one years, shall be suffered to live at their own hand, but under some orderly family governm[en]t; nor shall any woman of ill-fame, married or unmarried, be suffered to receive or entertain lodgers in her house.

[SECT. 4.] And the selectmen or overseers of the poor, constables and tythingmen, are hereby ordered to see the due observance of this act, and to complain and inform against any transgressions thereof, to one or more justices of the peace, or [the] court of gen[era]l[1] sessions of the peace who are hereby respectively required and impowered, upon due conviction of the offender or offenders, for living idly or disorderly, contrary to the true intent of this act, to commit or send such offenders to the house of correction or workhouse, there to remain and be kept to labour, until they be discharged by order of such justice or justices, or the court of gen[era]l[1] sessions of the peace; unless such person or persons so complained of shall give reasonable caution or assurance, to the satisfaction of the justice or court, that they will reform.

Idle persons to
sent to the
house of cor-
rection.

Provided,

[SECT. 5.] This act shall not be construed to extend to hinder any single woman of good repute, from the exercise of any lawful trade or employm[en]t for a livelihood; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Proviso.

[SECT. 6.] And any two justices committing any person or persons as aforesaid, are hereby impowered, as they shall find cause, to discharge them again. [*Passed November 16; published December 19.*]

CHAPTER 8.

AN ACT FOR ALTERING THE FORM OF THE CERTIFICATE OF PAYMENT[S] FOR WOLVES, MADE OUT OF ANY TOWN STOCK.

WHEREAS, by a law made in the seventh year of the reign of [her late majesty Queen Ann*] [*King William the Third*], provision is made for [the] reimbursing such sums of money as were paid out of any town stocks for wolves killed in [and] [or] near such town, by discounting the same with the constable of such town, out of the public assessm[en]t committed to him to collect; but inasmuch as it is found by experience that the sums paid out of the stocks of some towns do exceed the sums set upon such towns, as their proportion of the public tax, and no method prescribed by law for drawing the surplusage out of the treasury,—

1693, chap. 6,
§ 2.
1694-5, chap. 26.
1715-16, chap.
16.
1717-18, chap.
11.
1719-20, chap. 2.

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in Gen[era]l[1] Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

That the province treasurer be; and hereby is, directed and ordered for the future, to pay unto the treasurer of each town respectively, such sum or sums as shall by such town be advanced, agreeably to law, for wolves killed in or near such towns; and that all certificates of such payments to be returned to the treasurer, shall be in the form following; that is to say,—

Province treasurer to pay the whole sum for killing wolves.

* *Sic* in the original engrossment, and altered, as above, in the printed act; both, however, are wrong, for the provision referred to is made by 1693, chap. 6, § 2 (5 W. & M.).