

CHAPTER 7.

AN ACT FOR ENCOURAGING THE RAISING OF FLAX WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Premium for flax.

[SECT. 1.] That from and after the publication of this act, for the encouragement of the manufacturers of canvas and cordage, there shall be paid out of the publick treasury the sum of eighteen shillings and eightpence for every hundred and twelve pounds of water-rotted, well cured and clean-dressed flax of the growth of this province, that is brought to the surveyo[u]r or surveyo[u]rs within any county; and so in proportion for a less quantity, not under fifty-six pounds' weight: the quantity and quality of flax to be certified to the treasurer under the hands of such skilful surveyo[u]r or survey[o]rs as the governour or commander-in-chief, with the advice and consent of the council, shall from time to time nominate and appoint, who shall be paid by the vender one shilling for every hundred and twelve pounds they shall survey, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser quantity.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Quality of flax to be certified by the surveyor.

[SECT. 2.] That no flax shall be accounted merchantable within the intent of this act, but such as shall be bright, well cured, and water-rotted and cleansed from the swingle, fit for use, and so certified under the hand of one or more surveyo[u]r or surveyo[u]rs, to be appointed as aforesaid.

[SECT. 3.] And such surveyo[u]rs shall have an oath administer[e]d to them by the governour, or such person or persons as the govern[ou]r, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint.

Oath to be made that the flax has been disposed of in open market, &c.

[SECT. 4.] And no person shall be entit[u]led to any premium for flax till he hath made oath before the treasurer of the province or survey[o]rs to be appointed as aforesaid (who are hereby impowered to administer the same), that the said flax is *bonâ fide* the produce and growth of this province, and was raised by him, and has been accordingly disposed of in the open market, either at Boston or in any of the respective counties within this province, and that neither he nor any other person hath received the premium for the same, or any part thereof.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Additional premium for a larger quantity.

[SECT. 5.] That if any one person shall bring to the market the quantity of two hundred twenty-four pounds' weight of flax, and shall make oath before the treasurer in manner as aforesaid, he shall be allowed four shillings and eightpence per hundred over and above what is before allowed by this act.

And be it further enacted,

Surveyor to certify that oath is made.

[SECT. 6.] That when any surveyo[u]r appointed as aforesaid, shall view or survey any flax in any town, when he certif[ie][y]s to the treasurer the quantity and quality of the flax, he shall also certify that the owner hath taken the oath appointed by this act to be taken by the person claiming the bounty allowed in this act.

Limitation.

[SECT. 7.] This act to continue and be in force for the space of five years from the publication thereof, and no longer. [Passed June 15; published June 24.]