

the committee,  
in case.

such of them as shall be present, appointed to represent and act for this province, may and shall name and chuse some other disinterested person or persons in his or their room and stead, who shall have the same and as full power and authority, to join and determine the aforesaid difference, as those named in this act would have had, if present.

*Provided, always,—*

Proviso.

[SECT. 4.] That the said commissioners, or the major part of them, give up and deliver their award or determination, under their hands and seals, to the committee as aforesaid, at or before the last Wednesday of August next ensuing.

And for the more amicable and quiet proceeding to issue the aforesaid controversy, it is further condescended and agreed,—

*And be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

Process for  
rates to be sus-  
pended.

[SECT. 5.] That all processes for rates or taxes levied by the laws or authority of this province, shall cease and be suspended until the delivery of the commissioners' award to the committee, as aforesaid, if on or before the aforesaid last Wednesday of August.

*Provided, further,*

[SECT. 6.] That the general assembly of the colony of Rhode Island come into an act like to this in substance. [*Passed April 26; published April 28, 1733.*]

## CHAPTER 17.

AN ACT FOR ALLOWING NECESSARY SUPPL[IE][Y]S TO THE EASTERN AND WESTERN INDIANS, AND FOR REGULATING TRADE WITH THEM.

Preamble.  
1731-32, chap. 7.

WHEREAS the Indians in the eastern and western parts of this province have, many years since, recognized their subjection and obedience to the crown of Great Britain, and have their dependence on this government for supplies of cloathing and other necessaries; to the intent, therefore, that they may be furnished with the same at such eas[*y*][*ie*] rates and prices as may oblige them to a firm adherence to his majesty's interest, several truck-houses having been erected and set up for that purpose,—

*Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,*

Clothing, pro-  
visions, &c, to  
be prepared for  
the trade with  
the Indians.

[SECT. 1.] That provisions, cloathing and other suppl[*ie*][*y*]s suitable for a trade with the said Indians, be procured with the several sums that have been, now are, or shall be hereafter, granted for that purpose, by the general court, and the produce thereof applied, from time to time, for the supplying the said Indians, as aforesaid, by such person or persons as shall annually be chosen by this court, who shall proceed according to the instructions they shall receive from this court, or from the governour and council, on any emergency in the recess of this court: *provided*, such instructions and directions be consist[*e*][*a*]nt with the instructions they receive from the general court; which person or persons so chosen shall annually lay before this court fair accompts of his or their proceedings herein; and all supplies of cloathing, provisions and other things shall be lodged at such places to the eastward and elsewhere, as the general court have heretofore ordered, or as they shall, from time to time, order and appoint.

Accounts of the  
trade to be an-  
nually laid be-  
fore the general  
court.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

Truck-masters  
to be chosen.

[SECT. 2.] That a suitable person be appointed by this court for each of the places where any of the goods aforesaid are lodged, as a

truck-master, to have the care and management of the trade with the Indians, to be paid for his service such sum or sums, from year to year, as this court shall order; which truck-masters shall be under oath, and shall give sufficient security for the faithful[1] discharge of that trust, and attending such instructions as shall be, from time to time, given them by this court, and, in the recess of the court, by the governour and council, as aforesaid.

[SECT. 3.] And the said truck-masters shall keep fair accompts of their trade and dealing with the said Indians, and shall return the same, together with the produce thereof, from time to time, to the person or persons who shall be appointed to supply them with the goods as aforesaid: the said accompts to be laid before the court. And they shall not trade with the said Indians on behalf or ac-  
[un][mp]t of themselves, or any other person or persons. And in case of the death of any such truck-master, or mismanagement in that trust, during the recess of the court, another shall be put in his place by the governour, with the advice of the council, until the next session of the general court.

Truck-masters not to trade on their own account.

*And be it further enacted,*

[SECT. 4.] That the said truck-masters shall sell the goods to the Indians at the price set in the invoices sent them, from time to time, without any advance thereon, and shall allow the Indians, for their furs and other goods, as the market shall be at Boston according to the latest advices that they shall receive from the person or persons that shall supply them for the same commodities of equal goodness; and that the truck-masters do supply the Indians with rum in moderate quantit[ie][y]s, as they shall, in prudence, judge convenient and necessary, at the rate as charged in the invo[i][y]ce, from time to time.

Goods to be sold according to invoice.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,*

[SECT. 5.] That from and after the publication of this act, no person or persons whatsoever, other than the truck-masters that shall be appointed in manner as is before provided, shall or may presume by themselves, or any other for them, directly or indirectly, to sell, give, truck, barter or exchange to any of the afores[ai]d Indians, any strong beer, ale, cyder, perry, wine, rum, brandy, or any other strong liquor, by what name or names soever called or known, on penalty of forfeiting the sum of fifty pounds, or six months' imprisonment, for each offence; and in case any rum or strong liquors shall be sold or traded with on board any ship or vessel[1], or transported into those parts for sale, all such rum or strong liquors shall be also forfeited.

Private persons not to sell strong drink to the Indians.

Penalty.

[SECT. 6.] And the offences aforesaid shall be tr[i][y]ed at any of his majest[y][ie]'s courts of record within this province; and the justices of the said courts are accordingly impowered to hear and determine thereon: one moiety of all fines and forfeitures arising by v[i][e]rtue of this act, to be laid out in procuring suppl[i][y]es for carrying on the trade with the Indians; the other moiety to him or them that shall inform or sue for the same, in any of the courts aforesaid.

[SECT. 7.] This act to continue and be in force till the end of the session of the general assembly in May, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven. [Passed April 26; published April 28, 1733.]

Limitation.

NOTES.—There were, actually, three sessions of the General Court this year: the first, commencing May 31, and ending July 7; the second, commencing November 1, and ending January 4, 1732-33; and the third, commencing April 4, and ending April 26, 1733, by a dissolution. The last two sessions were held by adjournment, and the House seem, therefore, to have considered the second but a continuation of the first; for, in their answer to the Governor's speech, November 24, they allude to "the beginning of the present session in May last."

How far the parliamentary distinction between prorogations and adjournments was recognized by the Assembly it is difficult to determine from the records. Sometimes a meeting after an adjournment is mentioned by them as a new "sitting," which word is also