

## ACTS

PASSED AT THE SESSION BEGUN AND HELD AT BOSTON,  
ON THE TWENTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 1734.

## CHAPTER 14.

AN ACT FOR ENQUIRY INTO THE RATEABLE ESTATE OF THIS PROVINCE.

Preamble.  
1727, chap. 2.

WHEREAS there may be considerable alteration in the rateable estate of this province since the last [e][i]nquiry thereinto, by order of this court,—

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

Assessors for  
the year 1735 to  
take a list of  
polls and  
estates.

[SECT. 1.] That the assessors of the several [towns] within this province, that shall be chosen for the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five, shall, under oath, at or before the tenth day of April next, take a true and faithful list or account, according to their best skill and understanding, of all male polls from sixteen years old and upwards, being inhabitants of each respective town, whether at home or abroad, and none to be exempted thro[ugh] age, poverty or otherwise; and likewise of all rateable estates within the bounds of each town, both real and personal, and to whom the same belong[s], including all Indian, negro[e] and molatto servants, as well for term of years as for life, together with all farms and other lands lying adjacent thereunto, with the inhabitants thereon, except the governor or commander-in-chief, the lieut[enant] governo[u]r and their families, the president, fellows and students of Harvard College, settled ministers and grammar-school masters, who are hereby exempted, as well for their polls as for their estates, being in their hands and under their actual management and improvem[en]t; and the said assessors are directed and required in tak[e]ing the s[ai]d lists or accounts, to conform themselves to lists or forms printed for that purpose; and the s[ai]d assessors are also directed and required to transmit[t] the s[ai]d lists or accounts so taken, together with a certificate that they have taken the oath hereafter prescribed, into the secretar[y][ie]'s office in this province, at or before the last Wednesday of May next; which s[ai]d oath shall be administred to the s[ai]d assessors by a justice of the peace, or town clerk where there is no justice, who are respectively impowered to administer the same accordingly: which said oath shall be in the form following; vizt,—

Assessors to  
transmit their  
lists of polls  
and estates into  
the secretary's  
office.

Oath for the  
assessors for  
the year 1735.

You, A., B., C., being chosen assessors of the town of D., for this present year, do severally swear, that you will truly and faithfully do and perform the whole business and duty of an assessor, according to the directions of this act. So help you God.

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

[SECT. 2.] That the assessors of each of the towns as aforesaid (or such of them as are living), for the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four, are also hereby required to transmit[t] to the said secretary's office, by the said last Wednesday of May next, under oath, true and perfect copies of the province rates or taxes of their respective towns for the said year, as committed to the several constables or collectors to collect, with a certificate under the hand of a justice of the peace, or town clerk where there is no such justice, that the said assessors of the town of A., for the year [*one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four*] [1734], had taken the [oath] following [oath]; viz.,—

Assessors for the year 1734 to send a list of rates and taxes into the secretary's office.

You, E., F., do swear that this list is a true copy of the province rate or tax in your town by you made for the year [*one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four*] [1734], as committed to the constables or collectors of your town, and that you were under oath when you did the same. So help you God.

Oath for the assessors in the year 1734.

—which oath the said justice or town clerk are respectively impowered to administer to the s[ai]d assessors accordingly.

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

[SECT. 3.] That if any of the s[ai]d assessors shall neglect or fail of their duty as directed to in this act, each of them so neglecting or failing of their duty, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds; the one half thereof to his majesty, for and towards the support of this governm[en]t, the other half to him or them that shall inform and sue for the same in any of his majesty's courts of record within this province, by bill, plaint or information. [*Passed December 23, 1734; published January 4, 1734-35.*]

Penalty on assessors that neglect their duty.

## CHAPTER 15.

### AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE RAISING OF HEMP AND FLAX WITHIN THIS PROVINCE.

WHEREAS the better cultivation of the lands of this province, by raising naval stores, especially hemp and flax, within the same, will be of great service to the crown, as well as benefit to his majesty's subjects; and whereas, the several acts that have been already made and pass'd for this purpose, have not sufficiently encouraged persons to undertake the same,—

Preamble.

1715-16, chap. 19.  
1718-19, chap. 5.  
1725-26, chap. 7.  
1730-31, chap. 11.

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

[SECT. 1.] That from and after the first day of March next, there shall be paid out of the publick treasury, the sum of fifty-eight shillings for every one hundred and twelve pounds of water-rotted, well cured and clean dress'd hemp of the growth of this province, thereafter raised or produced; and thirty-seven shillings and fourpence for every one hundred and twelve pounds of water-rotted, well cured and clean dressed flax; and eighteen shillings and eightpence for every one hundred and twelve pounds of dew-rotted, well cured and clean dress'd flax of the growth of this province, thereafter raised or produced; and so in proportion for a greater or lesser quantity, not less than twenty-eight pounds weight: the quantity and quality of hemp and flax to be certified to the treasurer of the province, under the hand of such skillful survey[o]r, as each town shall chuse at their annual meeting in March yearly, for that purpose, who shall be paid by the owner of such

Bounty allowed for hemp and flax raised in this Province.

Hemp and flax to be surveyed, and the quantity and quality certified by the surveyor.