

appear within the aforesaid term of five days, or should be a second time convicted before a justice of the peace of transgressing against this act; in either of the cases before mentioned, the ram or he-goat found going at large, and taken up pursuant to this act, shall be declared forfeit, and shall thenceforward be the sole property of the person or persons taking up and posting the same in manner as is before mentioned.

[SECT. 4.] This act to continue and be in force for seven years from the publication thereof, and no longer. *[Passed and published April 10, 1741.]* Limitation.

CHAPTER 24.

AN ACT TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO INDIAN CORN AND OTHER GRAIN.

WHEREAS, in many places within this province, great damage has of late been done in corn fields by crows and blackbirds stripping the ears of Indian corn, and plucking up the tender stalk when newly sprouted in the field, and much stroy made of grain, and damage otherwise done, by water-rats, grey squirrels and ground squirrels; for the better preventing whereof for the future,— Preamble.

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 publication of this act, whosoever shall kill any crows, blackbirds, water-rats, grey or ground squirrels within this province, and shall bring their heads unto any one of the selectmen of the town in which such crows, blackbirds, water-rats, grey or ground squirrels shall be killed, or to either of the selectmen of the town next adjacent, where any are killed being in no township, who shall cut the beaks from off the heads of such crows or birds, and shall cut both ears from off the heads of such water-rats, grey and ground squirrels, and such selectman shall give the party a receipt for the same, and the receipt to be given for blackbirds shall express whether they were grown or fledg'd or not; and such receipt, for either of the other species of creatures before enumerated, shall set forth whether, in his judgment, they be two months old or under. Premium allowed for killing crows, blackbirds, water-rats and squirrels, to be paid out of the town treasury.

[SECT. 2.] And, upon producing such receipt, the party shall be paid and allowed by the town treasurer, or selectmen where there is no treasurer, out of the town stock, for every dozen of blackbirds taken in their nests and not fledged, twelvecence; for the like number of blackbirds grown and fledged, three shillings; and so in proportion for any less or greater number; for each crow, sixpence; for every water-rat, grey squirrel and ground squirrel, fourpence. Premiums to be repaid out of the province treasury.

[SECT. 3.] And all such payments, so made, shall be allowed and paid by the province treasurer, upon his receiving a certificate under the hands of the major part of the selectmen of such town, and town treasurer (where any such is) or town clerk; which certificate shall be in the following form:—

These may certify that there has been paid out of the town stock of A., for fledged blackbirds, and blackbirds, not fledged; [and so *mutatis mutandis* for the other creatures before named] killed in or near unto this town, and within this province, since the day of last past; and the heads thereof brought unto one of the selectmen of said town, and their beaks (if Form of the certificate.

crows or blackbirds, otherwise both their ears) cut off by one of us, as is directed by this act; in the whole sum of pounds, which sum we desire you to allow to our town, by paying the same unto A. B., our town treasurer. Dated in A. aforesaid, the day of Anno Domini, 17 .

} Selectmen,
} Town Treasurer,
} or Town Clerk.

To the Province Treasurer.

Inhabitants to
be assessed for
said premium.

[SECT. 4.] And the selectmen or assessors of each town, respectively, shall be and hereby are authorized and impowered to assess the inhabitants of their town, yearly, in due proportion, such sum and sums as they shall judge necessary to answer the payments to be made out of the town stock, as aforesaid, together with other charges of the town, and to cause the same to be collected in manner as is by law directed for the gathering of town rates.

And, whereas some towns within this province may have orders or by-laws now subsisting, whereby persons killing blackbirds, or some other of the creatures beforementioned, are intitled to a reward; wherefore, to prevent the inconvenienc[i]e[s] that may arise, should such orders subsist and be in force together with this act,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Town by-laws
superseded by
this act.

[SECT. 5.] That all town orders now in force, which give a premium for killing of blackbirds or any other kind of creatures specified in this act, be and they are hereby superseded (as far forth as they relate to those species) and declared null and void.

Limitation.

[SECT. 6.] This act to continue and be in force for the space of five years from the publication thereof, and no longer. [*Passed and published April 10, 1741.*]

CHAPTER 25.

AN ACT FOR ERECTING SUFF[E]I[E]LD EQUIVALENT LANDS, COMMONLY CALLED GLASGOW, IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, INTO A TOWNSHIP BY THE NAME OF BLANDFORD.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to this court, by the inhabitants of Suff[e]i[e]ld equivalent lands, commonly called Glasgow, in the county of Hampshire, that they labour under great difficulties by reason of their not being incorporated into a township,—

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

A new town
made called
Blandford.

Bounds thereof.

[SECT. 1.] That the lands aforesaid be and hereby are erected into a separate and distinct township by the name of Blandford; the bounds whereof are as followeth; vizt., beginning at a black birch, marked, with stones about it, being the south-east corner, and is near a small brook that runs into Westfield River, and on the west side of a steep, round mountain; from thence, running west, twenty degrees north, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five rods, to a maple-tree, marked; thence north, twenty degrees east, one thousand nine hundred and twenty rods, to a beach-tree, marked, with stones about it; from thence, east, twenty degrees south, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five rods, to a yellow-pine tree, marked, with stones about it; from thence, running south, twenty degrees west, one thousand nine hundred and twenty rods, to the bounds first mentioned.