

—his accounts to be laid before the general assembly in May session, annually.

ordered by the court of general sessions of the peace, by all such rules and methods prescribed by law to enable the treasurer and receiver-general to gather in the province taxes; and shall from time to time lay before the general assembly, at their anniversary session in May, an account of all money that has been raised in his respective county, or by any means received by him as county treasurer the year past, what each town paid towards it, and how the same has been employed or disposed of; and no further assessment shall be levied until the said account has been offered to the general court as aforesaid and allowed by them. [*Passed June 28; published July 1.*]

CHAPTER 6.

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

1692-3, chap 23,
§ 7.

WHEREAS the law for the binding out poor children apprentice 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 General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

Children whose parents are unable to maintain them to be 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 impowred 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 overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, be thought unable to maintain them (whither they receive alms or are chargeable to the place or not); so as that they be not cessed to publick taxes or assessments 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 of 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 inquire into the usage of children bound out by themselves or their predecessors, and endeavour to defend them from any wrongs or injuries.

Inquiry into the usage of children bound out.

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

Be it further declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid,

Persons living idly to be set to work.

[SECT. 2.] That the selectmen or overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, be and are further impowred, by and with the 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. 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 government; nor shall any woman of ill fame married or unmarried be suffered to receive or entertain lodgers in her house.

Idle persons to be sent to the house of correction, &c.

[SECT. 3.] And the selectmen or overseers of the poor, constables and tythingmen are hereby ordered to see to 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 general sessions of the peace, who are hereby respectively required and impowred, 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 general 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: *provided*,

[SECT. 4.] This act shall not be construed to extend to hinder any **Exception.**

singlewoman of good repute from the exercise of any lawful trade or employment for a livelihood, whereto she shall have the allowance and approbation of the selectmen or overseers of the poor, or the greater part of them, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. And any two justices, committing any person or persons as aforesaid, are hereby impowred, as they shall find cause, to discharge them again.

Power to discharge.

[SECT. 5.] This act to continue in force until the end of the session **Limitation.** of this court in May, 1717, and no longer. [*Passed June 19; published June 28.*]

CHAPTER 7.

AN ACT FOR THE ADMEASUREMENT OF BOARDS, PLANK AND TIMBER, AND REGULATING THE TALE OF SHINGLES.

WHEREAS boards, plank and timber are usually sold by the measure set upon them at the mills where they are sawn, and bundles of shingles are mark'd for a greater number than what they contain, wherein great fraud and deceit is too often practised by ill-minded persons; for prevention whereof,—

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

[SECT. 1.] That in each maritime town within this province where boards, plank, timber and slit-work are usually imported, or brought for sale, or exported beyond sea, there be two or more honest skilful persons annually elected by such town, at the time of their anniversary choice of town officers, to be surveyers and measurers of boards, plank, timber and slit-work, and surveyers of shingles, who shall be sworn in manner as other town officers, to the faithful performance of the duty of their office.

Surveyors and measurers of boards, &c., to be annually elected in maritime towns.

[SECT. 2.] And all boards, plank, timber or slit-work imported or brought for sale, before their delivery upon sale, shall be viewed, surveyed, and also measured, by one of the said officers, where he shall have any doubt of the measure, having consideration for drying and shrinking; also shall mark anew all such, to the just contents, making reasonable allowance for rots, splits and weanes: the buyer to pay the officer sixpence per thousand feet for viewing onely, and sixpence per thousand feet more for measuring and marking, and *pro rata* for a lesser quantity than a thousand feet.

All boards, &c., to be viewed before sale.

Fee for viewing and measuring.

[SECT. 3.] And no boards, plank, timber or slit-work shall be delivered upon sale, or ship'd for exportation beyond [*the*] sea, before they have been viewed and surveyed, and also measured (if occasion be), and marked anew by one of the officers thereto appointed, on pain of being forfeited, or the value thereof, by the seller or shipper, to the use of the poor of the town where they are sold or ship'd.

No boards, &c., to be exported before viewing.