

*At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the Sixth Day of June, 1770, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Third, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and there continued by several Prorogations until the Sixth day of June, Anno Domini 1777, in the Seventeenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, being the Fifth General Assembly convened in the said Province.*

17 George III – Chapter 8

**An Act for restraining the exorbitant Price of Labour.**

Be it enacted, by the Lieutenant Governor, Council, and Assembly, that as soon as may be, after the first day of July next, the Justices of the Peace in the several counties in this province and in the townships, empowered by law to hold special sessions, shall meet together at such places where the sessions of the peace are usually held, and also within six months thereafter, taking into consideration the circumstances of the times and prices of provisions, assess the wages of all artificers and labourers, according to the best of their judgement, for any labour or work to be done, by the day, week, month or year.

II. And be it enacted, that the said Justices, shall immediately after the said assessment made, cause the same to be certified under the hand of the clerk of the peace, and posted up in the most public places in the several townships within such county by the Provost Marshal or his deputy, or one of the constables.

III. And be it also further enacted that if any person employing any labourer or artificer shall offer or agree for, or give greater wages than shall be so assessed, every person convicted thereof, upon complaint made before two Justices of the Peace shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifteen pounds nor less than five pounds, for the use of the poor of the township where such person resides, and be levied by warrant of distress and sale of the offender's goods, and if any artificer or labourer shall take and receive greater wages than shall be so assessed, such artificer or labourer shall upon conviction in manner aforesaid, forfeit a sum not exceeding five pounds, nor less than forty shillings for the use aforesaid, and on non-payment thereof, be committed to the goal, of the county or place where the offence shall be committed for the space of one month.

IV. And be it enacted, that this Act shall continue and remain in force for one year, and until the end of the session of the General Assembly then next following.