

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Monday, the Second Day of October, 1758, and in the 32nd year of His Majesty's Reign.

32 George II – Chapter 10

An Act to prevent forestalling the Market.

Whereas large quantities of live stock, fresh provision, and other articles are imported into this Province for sale from neighbouring colonies, and divers persons make a practice of engrossing the same immediately upon the arrival thereof, to the great prejudice of the Inhabitants;

Be it enacted by his Excellency the Governor, Council, and Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is hereby enacted, that all kinds of live stock, (oxen and sheep excepted) all dead fresh provision, grain, hay, roots, or garden stuff, which shall be imported for sale into any part of this Province, after the publication hereof, shall by the importers thereof, be brought to some publick wharf, and there openly exposed to sale, for forty eight hours, and public notice shall be given thereof through the town or place where the same shall be so imported, by the common cryer: And no such live stock, or dead fresh provision whatsoever, grain, hay, roots, or garden stuff, shall during the said forty eight hours, be sold, or contracted for in gross, to or with any person or persons whatsoever, on penalty of the forfeiture of the article or articles so sold or bought, or contracted for, or the value thereof, upon conviction by the oath of one credible witness before any two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, to be levied by Warrant of Distress, under the hands and seals of the said Justices; One half of such forfeitures to be to the use of the informer, and the other half to the use of the poor of the place where such forfeiture shall be incurred.

Provided always, that nothing in this Act shall be construed to extend to the importation of flour of all kinds, biscuit-bread, or fish.

Provided also, that in case any dead fresh provision shall, at any time be imported, which by the length of the passage, or other accident, shall be perishing, or in a decaying condition, that then, upon application of the importer to two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, setting forth upon oath, such the condition of the provision so imported, such Justices may, and they are hereby empowered, under their hands and seals, to grant permission to such importer, immediately to sell and dispose of such provision in the speediest manner, any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, that all prosecutions under this Act, shall be within ten days after the offence committed.