

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on the Twentieth day of March, 1793, and continued by several Prorogations to the Sixth Day of June, Anno Domini 1794, in the Thirty-Fourth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George The Third of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, being the Second Session of the Seventh General Assembly convened in the said Province. From Richard John Uniacke, The Statutes at Large passed in the General Assembly held in His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia: A complete index and abridgement of the whole. John Howe and Son, 1805.

34 George III – Chapter 9

An Act to regulate the packing and inspecting of Salted Beef and Pork, for Exportation.

Whereas it is necessary, for the encouragement of raising neat cattle and hogs, as staple articles of exportation from this Province, to apply every necessary precaution to prevent salted beef and pork being shipped, otherwise than in the best manner and condition, and under certain regulations:

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, that from and after the publication hereof the Grand Juries of the several counties in this province, at their general session of the peace in each of the said counties, wherein by law town officers are to be nominated and appointed, shall nominate, out of every township in such county, four fit persons, out of whom the said court of sessions shall appoint two, to be inspectors and repackers of beef and pork intended for exportation: which inspectors and repackers shall hold and exercise their said office for and during the year succeeding such their nomination and appointment, and until others shall be appointed in their stead; and shall, within eight days after notice of their appointment, and before they enter upon the execution of their office, take the following oath, before some one justice of the peace for the county wherein they reside, viz.

“I A. B. do swear, that I will faithfully, truly and impartially, according to the best of my judgment, skill and undertaking, execute, do and perform, the office and duty of an inspector and examiner of beef and pork, according to the true intent and meaning of the laws of this Province relative to the same.”

II. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the publication of this act, all barrels in which any beef or pork shall be repacked, shall be made of good sound hard wood staves and heading, with not less than twelve hoops on each barrel, and shall be of such size and dimensions as herein after expressed, and be made as nearly strait as possible, and in every respect sufficient to hold pickle, and that all half barrels shall be made of the like materials and quality.

III. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the inspectors and repackers, so to be appointed, shall examine and sort all beef and pork to be by them repacked, and such as is well fattened, and in every other particular in a good state for exportation, shall be

by them repacked into barrels into the following manner, that is to say: such beef as is large and fat without either hocks, shins or neck pieces, shall be sorted by itself, and on one of the heads of all barrels, containing beef of this quality, shall be branded the words mess beef, and that such beef as is not of the very first quality, shall be sorted and repacked by itself, and on one of the heads of all barrels, containing beef of this quality, shall be branded the words prime beef, in each of which barrels of prime beef there shall be at the least one round, and not more than two hocks or shins, and one half of the neck, and to be good and well fattened beef, and such as is inferior or third quality beef, shall in like manner be sorted and repacked by itself, and on one of the heads of all barrels, containing beef of this quality, shall be branded the words cargo beef, which shall not contain more than three hocks or shins, and one half of the neck in each such last mentioned barrel. And further that every barrel in which any kind of beef, shall be so repacked as aforesaid, shall contain to hundred neat pounds of such beef, and the figures 200 shall be branded on one of the heads of each and every such barrel, and shall be of such size and dimensions as to hold not more than thirty one or less than thirty gallons; and that each barrel of pork shall contain two hundred neat pounds of pork well fattened, the first quality of which shall not have in each barrel more than three shoulders without the legs, which shall be cut off at the knees, and such a proportion of head or heads as shall not exceed twenty four neat pounds in weight, the ears and snouts cut off, and on one of the heads of all barrels containing pork of this quality, shall be branded the words prime pork, with the figures of 200 thereunder. The second quality of pork, shall not have in each barrel more than five shoulders without the legs, and no more than two heads, which shall not exceed thirty neat pounds, and shall be otherwise good merchantable pork on one of the heads, of all barrels containing pork of this last mentioned quality, shall be branded the words cargo pork, with the figures 200 thereunder; and all barrels wherein such pork shall be repacked shall be of the dimensions to contain not more than thirty, or less than twenty nine gallons.

IV. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every half barrel, in which beef shall be repacked by virtue of this act, shall be of such size as to hold not less than fifteen gallons, and one half gallon, or more than sixteen gallons, and shall contain one hundred neat pounds of beef; and every half barrel in which pork shall be so repacked, shall be of such size, as to hold not less than fifteen gallons, or more than fifteen gallons and one half gallon, and shall contain one hundred neat pounds of pork, and on one of the heads, of every such half barrel of beef or pork, shall be branded the figures 100, and in other respects to be assorted and branded, and under the same rules and restrictions, as full barrels of beef and pork are herein before directed to be.

V. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that not any beef or pork shall be repacked until the same has been laid in salt not less than fourteen days before such repacking, and all casks of beef and pork so repacked, shall be branded with the initial letters of the inspector's and repacker's Christian name, with his surname at full length, together with the name of the place where repacked. And every inspector and repacker of beef and pork, shall carefully secure such his marking irons, so as to put it out of the power of his

servants, or others, to obtain and make use of them contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act.

VI. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the inspectors and repackers shall receive and be paid for inspecting and repacking, after the rates following, that is to say: for inspecting and repacking each barrel, one shilling, and for each half barrel, seven pence half penny; for each hoop wanting, and put on by the inspector and repacker, two pence, and for flagging, nailing, pegging, and pickling, each barrel, seven pence half penny, and each half barrel, five pence, the owner of the beef or pork, furnishing, or paying, for, the salt.

VII. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, if any person or persons shall, at any time hereafter, intermix, take out or shift, any beef or pork that has been repacked and branded as aforesaid, and shall export, or lade on board any vessel for exportation, such beef or pork so intermixed, taken out or shifted, every person so taking out, intermixing and fraudulently shifting, such beef or pork, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay the sum of fifty pounds: to be applied to the benefit and use of the informer or informers.

VIII. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that if any inspector or repacker, hereafter to be appointed by this act, shall inspect, repack or brand, any barrels or half barrels of beef or pork, in any manner or form contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, in any other manner, offend against the true intent and meaning thereof, such inspector and repacker shall forfeit for every offence, the sum of fifty pounds, the one half of which shall be applied to the use of the poor of the township wherein the offence is committed, and the other half to be paid to the person or persons informing.

IX. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that from and after the appointment of such inspectors and repackers, if any person or persons shall export, or ship for exportation out of this province, any beef or pork, not being inspected, repacked and branded, by one of the sworn inspectors and repackers as aforesaid, every such exporter and master of every vessel, having on board such uninspected beef or pork, shall, upon conviction, respectively forfeit and pay the sums following: for every barrel of beef or pork, so exported, or shipped for exportation, as aforesaid, that is to say, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay for every such barrel, the sum of forty shillings, and the master of every vessel, having the same on board, shall forfeit and pay, for every barrel, twenty shillings, and further, that the said inspectors, and every of them, shall have full power and authority, by virtue of this act, on suspicion that any beef or pork, not inspected as aforesaid, shall be shipped in any vessel for exportation, to apply to any justice of the peace, and, on oath, to assign to such justice, the causes of such suspicion, and if the said justice shall think the said suspicion well grounded, he shall issue his warrant to the said inspector or inspectors, to enter on board any vessel whatever, laden, or loading in any port within this province, and to search for, and make discovery of, any beef or pork shipped on board any such vessel, for exportation out of this province: and if any of the said inspectors shall discover any beef or pork not repacked or branded as directed in, and by this act, on board of any such vessel,

such inspector shall apply to such justice of the peace, who is hereby authorized and required, to issue his warrant directed to the sheriff, his deputy, or any of the constables of the county, wherein such vessel is laden, or loading as aforesaid, commanding him or them to enter on board every such vessel having on board such uninspected beef or pork, and cause the same to be relanded and delivered to the owner or owners thereof, upon his or their paying all reasonable and lawful expenses for the aforesaid warrant, search and relanding; and if any person or persons shall obstruct, or prevent, any inspector from making such search as aforesaid, or any peace officer, in relanding such beef or pork, each and every person so offending, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty pounds, to be paid to the overseers of the poor for the township, wherein such offence is committed, the same to be recovered on the oath of the inspector or peace officer.

Provided always, nevertheless, that each and every vessel bound for any voyage, and not carrying any beef or pork out of the province for sale, shall, and may, be permitted to carry any quantity of beef and pork for the use of the ship's company, not exceeding in the whole, two thousand pounds, gross weight, in any manner or mode, that the owner of such vessel may think proper.

X. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all and every the forfeitures and penalties aforesaid, shall and may be recovered, with costs of suit, in the supreme court, or the inferior court of common pleas, by any person or persons who will sue and prosecute for the same to effect, by bill, plaint or information.

XI. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall continue, and be in force, for two years, from the end of the present session of the General Assembly, and no longer.