

CAP. IV.

An ACT in addition to an Act, made in the third year of His present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act to enable the Inhabitants of the several Townships in this Province to maintain their Poor.

For Acts respecting Poor, see note on 3d and 4th Geo. 3d cap. 7.

WHEREAS it hath been doubted whether the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace, in their Sessions, extends to controul and direct the expenditure of monies collected for the use of the poor, and to examine and check the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor :

Preamble.

I. *Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly,* That, from and after the publication hereof, it shall and may be lawful for Justices of the Peace for the County of Halifax, from time to time, at their respective Sessions, to nominate and appoint a keeper of the poor-house at Halifax, and a surgeon to attend the poor therein : and to make such bargains and agreements, with such keeper and surgeon, as the said Justices shall find expedient, as well for the benefit of the said poor, as for the general advantage of the inhabitants of the said county.

Appointment of a Keeper and Surgeon to the Poor-House.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for the said Justices, at their respective Sessions to make such reasonable rules and regulations for the government of the said poor-house, and of the poor therein, as they shall see fit ; and also at every Quarter Sessions to appoint three of the said Justices to visit and inspect the said poor-house whenever they may see occasion; and such inspecting Justices shall, on some certain day in the first week of every month, visit the said poor-house, and shall give notice to the Overseers of the Poor of the day and hour when such visitation is to take place, and the said Overseers shall then and there attend upon the said inspecting Justice, and shall lay before them a list of all such wearing apparel, bedding, and other necessary articles, as may be deemed requisite for the use of the poor-house, and of the poor therein, for the ensuing month, and such list shall be examined and approved in whole, or in part, by the said Justices, and the articles so approved of, and no more, shall be applied accordingly.

Regulation and inspection of the Poor-House.

III. *And be it further enacted,* That the Justices of the Peace in their respective Sessions, in the several counties throughout the Province, shall and may examine the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor, after they shall have been delivered to them in manner directed by the aforesaid Act, and shall allow such accounts if they appear just, and may refuse to allow any monies charged in said accounts, which the said Justices shall have reasonable grounds to believe unduly, or unfairly, charged or expended.

Examination of the accounts of the Poor-House.

IV. *And be it further enacted,* That the Overseers of the Poor shall take, and keep, a true inventory of every article belonging to the said Poor House, and at the expiration of their office, shall deliver over to their successors, a true inventory of all the articles then remaining in said Poor House, a duplicate of which last mentioned inventory shall be delivered, by the preceding Overseers, into the Sessions along with their accounts.

Overseers to deliver an inventory of articles in the Poor-House to their successors.

V. *And be it further enacted,* That if any Overseer of the Poor shall refuse, or neglect, to comply with the respective directions contained in this Act, he shall forfeit and pay for every offence, a sum not exceeding forty shillings, nor less than twenty shillings, to be recovered before any Justice of the Peace, and applied to the use of the poor of the town of Halifax.

Overseers refusing, or neglecting to comply with this Act.

VI. *And be it further enacted,* That when Poor Houses shall be built, or provided in any other township in this Province, the same shall be regulated, managed and controlled as the said Poor House at Halifax is by law regulated, managed and controlled.

Regulations for the government of Poor-Houses in other townships.