

At the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, begun and holden at Halifax, on Thursday the Sixth day of February, 1812, and continued by several Prorogations to Thursday the Ninth day of February, 1815, in the Fifty-fifth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith &c. &c. being the Fifth Session of the Tenth General Assembly, convened in the said Province. From Henry H. Cogswell, The Statutes at Large passed in the General Assembly held in His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia: from the Sixth Session of the Eighth General Assembly, to the Fifty-Sixth year of his Majesty's Reign. John Howe and Son, 1816.

55 George III – Chapter 20

An Act to encourage the Fisheries of the Province, by granting a Bounty on the importation of Salt, and also for regulating and imposing a Duty on the exportation of the same article.

Whereas, the want of a regular importation of salt, frequently causes that article to become scarce and dear, and occasions an interruption to the fisheries, and at other times the market being overstocked, the importers suffer a loss, and are discouraged from continuing their importations; and it is expedient to regulate the exportation of salt, and to impose a duty on such salt as shall hereafter be sold or exported to foreigners or to foreign states:

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that whenever any salt shall be imported into this province after the first day of June, in the present year, from Europe, Africa, or the West-Indies, and the price on the sale thereof, at auction, from the ship in manner herein after mentioned, shall not amount to the average sum of fifteen shillings, currency, per hogshead, of common fine salt, and twenty shillings, currency, per hogshead, of coarse grained fishery salt, the owner, importer or consignee, of such salt, shall be entitled to claim and receive such bounty thereon, as in addition to the average price for which such salt shall have been sold, shall amount to the aforesaid price per hogshead of fifteen shillings for fine and twenty shillings for coarse salt. Provided always, that no bounty so to be paid to any such owner, importer or consignee thereof, shall in any case exceed the rate of two shillings and six-pence per hogshead on common fine, or three shillings and six-pence per hogshead on coarse grained fishery salt.

II. And be it further enacted, that when any ship or vessel, laden wholly or in part with salt, shall arrive in any port or place of discharge in this province, and the owner, importer or consignee, shall be desirous to make sale thereof, and shall not be able to procure the prices herein before mentioned, for the same, and shall intend to claim the bounty granted by this act, such owner, importer or consignee, shall forthwith advertise the whole of the said salt to be sold at public auction out of the ship, and shall sell the same in lots of not more than five hogsheads in a lot.

III. And be it further enacted, that no person shall be entitled to claim for any salt sold, or to be sold, pursuant to the directions of this act, at any out-port in this province, any greater

or higher bounty than if the said salt had been sold at the port of Halifax; and all claims for any greater or higher bounty shall be reduced and computed according to the average sales of salt at the same time by auction at the port of Halifax; and if no such sale shall have taken place there at that time, then according to the average price of salt sold by auction at Halifax last before the date of the sale for which such bounty shall be claimed.

IV. And be it further enacted, that before any bounty shall be paid on any salt so sold as aforesaid, the person entitled to claim such bounty, shall procure from the auctioneer by whom such salt shall have been sold, an account of sales, specifying the several lots and parcels, the names of the purchasers, the quality or kind, and the prices of salt of the respective quantities so sold, to which account the auctioneer shall annex and subscribe a certificate, under oath, that such sale was made by him, and was a true and fair sale of the quantities of salt, and for the prices in such account specified, and that the same were the highest prices which could be procured at such auction: and all salt so sold shall be measured out of the ship by a sworn measurer, whose certificates of such admeasurement to the respective purchasers thereof, shall also be annexed to the account of sales aforesaid; and the said vouchers shall be lodged in the office of the secretary of the province, to be produced thereafter to the general assembly if required; and thereupon it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief, to draw his warrant on the treasurer of the province in favor of the said owner, importer or consignee, of said salt, for the amount of the bounty he may be entitled to receive in manner herein before mentioned and limited.

V. And be it further enacted, that there shall be granted and paid to his Majesty, his heirs and successors, for all salt which shall hereafter be exported from this province, and shall be entitled to, and shall have received the bounty hereby granted, the following rates and duties, that is to say:—For and upon every hogshead of coarse grained fishery salt, the sum of three shillings and six pence; and for and upon every hogshead of common fine salt, the sum of two shillings and six pence; to be paid to the collector of impost and excise for the port or place from which such exportation shall be made, at the time of granting the permit herein after mentioned.

VI. And be it further enacted, that before any person or persons shall lade on board any ship, vessel or craft, any salt to the amount of twenty hogsheads, he or they shall apply for and obtain a permit for the lading such salt, from the collector of impost and excise for such port or place where the same shall be so laded; and if such salt is intended for exportation, to any other port in this province, or to any other British port or place, such person or persons so lading the same, shall also make the following oath, which the collectors of impost and excise respectively are hereby authorized to administer, to wit:

I, A. B. do swear, that the _____ about to be shipped by me on board the _____ whereof _____ is master, is really and truly intended for _____, and that the same is not intended to be, and shall not be, landed in any foreign port or place, or sold to any foreigner or foreigners.

And the said collectors respectively may administer the said oath to any person or persons who may lade salt on board any vessel or boat intended for the use of the fisheries of the province, if there is any suspicion of any fraudulent intent to dispose of the same to foreigners for exportation.

VII. And be it further enacted, that when the price of common fine salt shall exceed twenty shillings per hogshead, and of coarse grained fishery salt shall exceed thirty shillings per hogshead, it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of his Majesty's council, to prohibit by proclamation the exportation of salt to any foreign port or place, or the sale thereof to any foreigner or foreigners for the purpose of being used in any foreign fishery.

VIII. And be it further enacted, that if any person or persons shall lade on board any ship, vessel, or boat, any salt, to the amount of twenty hogsheads, or upwards, without first obtaining an permit for the same, in manner aforesaid, and also taking the oath herein before-mentioned, in such case wherein the same is directed to be taken as aforesaid, or if any person or persons shall so sell or lade for exportation any such salt, after proclamation as aforesaid, all such salt so sold or laden on board such ship, vessel, or boat, shall be seized and forfeited; and in case the same shall have been actually exported, or cannot be got at to be seized, the person or persons so exporting or selling the same, shall forfeit and pay the sum of thirty shillings for each and every hogshead of coarse grained fishery salt, and the sum of twenty shillings for each and every hogshead of common fine salt, so clandestinely sold or exported.

IX. And be it further enacted, that all penalties and forfeitures for any offence against this act, shall be prosecuted, levied, recovered and applied, in the manner and according to the directions prescribed by the act for granting to his Majesty duties on wine, rum, and other distilled spirituous liquors, molasses, coffee and brown sugar.

X. And be it further enacted, that this act, and every matter, clause and thing, therein contained, shall be and continue in force until the first day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, and no longer.