

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 Eighth day of February, 1816, in the Fifty-sixth 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 Sixth 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.

56 George III – Chapter 27

An Act to prevent unlawful Combinations of Master Tradesmen, and also of their Workmen and Journeymen.

Whereas, great number of master tradesmen, journeymen and workmen, in the town of Halifax, and other parts of the province, have, by unlawful meetings and combinations, endeavoured to regulate the rate of wages and to effectuate other illegal purposes, for remedy whereof:

I. Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, that from and after the passing of this act, all contracts, covenants and agreements whatsoever, in writing or not in writing, at any time or times heretofore made or entered into, by or between any journeymen, manufacturers, or other workmen, or other persons within this province, for obtaining an advance of wages of them, or any of them, or any other journeymen, manufacturers or workmen, or other persons in any manufacture, trade or business, or for lessening or altering their, or any of their, usual hours or time of working, or for decreasing the quantity of work, or for preventing or hindering any person or persons, from employing whomsoever he, she, or they shall think proper to employ, in his, her, or their manufacture, trade or business or for controuling, or any way affecting any person or persons carrying on any manufacture trade or business, in the conduct or management thereof, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be illegal, null, and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

II. And be it further enacted, that no journeyman, workman, or other persons, shall at any time, after the passing of this Act, make or enter into, or be concerned in the making of or entering into any such contract, covenant or agreement, in writing or not in writing, as is herein before declared to be an illegal covenant, contract or agreement, and every journeyman, workman or other person, who after the passing of this Act, shall be guilty of any of the said offences, being thereof lawfully convicted, upon his own confession, or the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness, or witnesses, before any two or more justices of the peace for the county, town or place, where such offence shall be committed, which oath any of the said justices are hereby authorised and empowered to administer, in such case, and in all other cases where an oath is to be taken before any justice or justices of the

peace, in pursuance of this act, within three calendar months next after the offence shall have been committed, shall, by order of such justices, be committed to, and confined in the common jail, within their jurisdiction, for any time, not exceeding three months, or at the discretion of such justices, shall be committed to some house of correction within the same jurisdiction, there to remain and be kept to hard labour, for any time not exceeding two months.

III. And be it further enacted, that every journeyman, workman, or other person, who shall at any time, after the passing of this act, enter into any combination, to obtain an advance of wages, or to lessen or alter the hours or duration of the time of working, or to decrease the quantity of work, or for any other purpose contrary to this act, or who shall, by giving money, or by persuasion, solicitation or intimidation, or any other means, directly or indirectly, endeavour to prevent any unhired or unemployed journeyman or workman, or other person, in any manufacture, trade or business, or any other person wanting employment in such manufacture, trade or business, from hiring himself to any manufacturer, or tradesman, or person conducting any manufacture, trade or business, or who shall, for the purpose of obtaining an advance of wages, or for any other purpose contrary to the provisions of this act, by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly decoy, persuade, solicit, intimidate, influence or prevail, or attempt or endeavor to prevail, on any journeyman or workman, or person hired or employed, or to be hired or employed in any such manufacture, trade or business, to quit or leave his work, service or employment, or who shall hinder or prevent, or attempt to hinder or prevent, any manufacturer or tradesman, or other person, from employing, in his or her manufacture, trade or business, such journeyman, workman and other persons as he or she shall think proper, or who, being hired to work therein and who shall be lawfully convicted of any of the said offences, upon his own confession, or the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness or witnesses, before any two or more justices of the peace for the county, town or place, where such offence shall be committed, within three calendar months next after the offence shall have been committed, shall, by order of such justices, be committed to and confined in the common jail, within his or their jurisdiction, for any time not exceeding three months, or otherwise be committed to some house of correction, within the same jurisdiction, there to remain and be kept to hard labour, for any time not exceeding two months.

IV. And be it further enacted, that all contracts, associations, agreements, covenants and engagements, whether in writing or not, entered into between master tradesmen or manufacturers, or any other person or persons, for the purpose of regulating the wages or workmen, or for adding to or altering the usual hours of work, or for increasing the quantity of work, or for regulating or fixing the price to be paid for any work done, or article made or manufactured, by such master tradesmen or manufacturers, or other persons, whereby their customers or others who may deal with them may be affected, shall be illegal and void: and every master tradesman, manufacturers, or other persons, whereby their customers or others who may deal with them may be affected, shall be illegal and void: and every master tradesman, manufacturer or other person being thereof convicted, by the oath of one witness, before two justices, within twelve calendar months, shall forfeit and pay for each

and every offence twenty pounds, one half to the informer, and the other half to the poor; and if the same is not immediately paid with costs of prosecution, such justices shall levy the same by warrant of distress, with the costs attending the distress and sale, and for want of sufficient distress, such justices shall commit the offender or offenders to the common jail or house of correction, for any time not exceeding three, or less than two, calendar months.

V. And be it further enacted, that nothing in this act contained, shall prevent, or be construed to prevent, any person or persons, combining or confederating together, to raise the price of labour, or to raise the price of provisions or victuals of any kind, or to raise the price of goods, wares or merchandize, of any kind or sect, from being indicted, prosecuted, or punished, as for a conspiracy, or unlawful combination.