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By the QUEEN, A PROCLAMATION.

For Putting the Laws in Execution against Forestalling, Regrating, and Engrossing of Corn.

ANNE R.

WHEREAS several good Statutes have been made against Forestallers, Regraters and Engrossers, who are thereby declared open Oppressors of the Poor, and Enemies of their Country: And by an Act made in the Parliament holden in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of King Edward the Sixth, the Buying, Bargaining or Contracting for any Corn coming by Land or by Water to any Market or Fair, or to any City, Port, Haven, Creek, or Road of this Realm or Wales, from any Parts beyond Sea, to be Sold, before the same shall be brought into the Markets, Fairs, City, Port, Haven, Creek, or Road, to be Sold; and the making any Motion by Word, Letter, Message, or otherwise, to any Person, for the Inhaucing of the Price, or dear Selling of the same; and the dissuading any Person from bringing his or her Corn to any of the said Markets, Fairs, Cities, Ports, Havens, Creeks, or Roads, to be Sold, are prohibited and adjudged Forestalling: And whereas by the same Act it is declared, That the obtaining or getting into any Man's Possession, any Corn in any Fair or Market, and selling the same in any Fair or Market held in the same Place, or within four Miles thereof; shall be adjudged Regrating. And whereas by the same Act it is likewise declared, That it shall be adjudged an unlawful Engrossing to Buy or Contract for any Corn, to Sell the same again, otherwise than is therein particularly allowed of (that is to say) Buying of Barley, Rigg or Oats (not by Forestalling, to be converted into Malt or Oatmeal in the House of the Buyer, which shall be so converted indeed; or the taking of any Corn reserved without Fraud, upon any Lease for Term of any Life or Years: Or the buying of any Corn (not by Forestalling) by any Badger, Lader, Kidder or Carrier, who is to be Licensed so to do, and shall Sell the same in open Fair or Market, or to some Victualler, or other Person, for the Provision of his or their Houses, within one Month after the same shall be so first bought; or providing, without Forestalling, the usual Quantity of Corn, for any City, Borough, or Town Corporate; or for Provision, or Victualling any Ship, Castle or Fort within the Dominions of the Crown; all which sorts of Dealing in Corn are not Offences against the said Statute; nor the buying of Corn (except by Forestalling) by any Person Licensed so to do, to be Transported by Water from any Port or Place in England or Wales, unto any other Port or Place within our Dominions, so that the same, without Fraud, Shipped within forty Days after the same shall be bought, and carried with such Expedition as the Wind and Weather will permit, to the Port the Cocquet of the same shall declare; and there to disbarque and sell the same, and bring a Certificate thereof from a Justice of Peace of the County, or Mayor, or Bailiff of the Town, and of the Customer of the Port, of the Place and Day where the Corn was unladed and sold, to the Customer and Comptroller of the Port where the same was Shipped; the Punishments of which said Offences are Enacted to be imprisonment for two Months, without Bail or Mainprize, for the first Offence, besides Forfeiture of the Corn so bought or had; for the second Offence, Imprisonment for the space of half a Year, without Bail or Mainprize, and Loss of double the Value of the Corn so bought or had, as aforesaid; and for the third Offence, sitting on the Pillory in the Place where the Offence shall dwell, and Forfeiture of all his Goods and

Chartels, and Imprisonment during our Pleasure; the one Moiety of all which Forfeitures is given to the Prosecutor in case he will sue for the same; but the whole Forfeiture will belong to us, where the Conviction shall be at our Suit only. And it was thereby likewise Enacted, That if any Person having sufficient Corn for Provision of his House, and Sowing of his Ground for one Year, shall buy any Corn in any Fair or Market, for the Charge of his Seed, and shall not bring to the same Fair or Market the same Day, so much Corn as shall be so bought for his Seed, and sell the same, if he can, at the Price the same shall then go at, in the said Fair or Market, every such Person shall Forfeit the double Value of the Corn so bought. And whereas by an Act made in the Fifth Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was enacted, That no Badger, Lader, Kidder, Carrier, Buyer or Transporter of Corn, shall be Licensed but in the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County where such Person shall so dwell, and hath dwelt for the space of three Years before the Date of his Licence, and who is then an Householder, not a Servant or Retainer to any Person, and who at the time of granting such Licence, is or hath been a Married Man, not under the Age of thirty Years, which Licences are to continue but for a Year, and must be signed and sealed by three of the Justices then present, whereof one to be of the Quorum, on pain of Forfeiting five Pounds by every Person taking any Licence not pursuant to the said Act; and all such Licences are by the said Act declared to be null and void. And the said Justices are by the said Act impowered to take Bond and Surety by Recognizance of the Person Licensed, that he shall not Forestal or Engross, or otherwise practise or do any act or thing contrary to the said Statute of Edward the Sixth. And it is likewise further provided by the said Act, That no Person shall buy any Corn or Grain out of open Fair or Market, to sell again, unless such Person shall be thereunto Licensed by special Order and express Words, upon pain of Forfeiting the like Sum of five Pounds; all which several Offences the Justices of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions for the County, where such Offences shall be committed, have power to hear and determine. And whereas the Prices of Corn are already very much increased, and the same is likely to grow much dearer, to the great Oppression of the Poor, partly because the said Acts are not duly put in Execution, We have thought fit, by the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue forth this our Royal Proclamation; and we do hereby strictly Charge and Command all and every our Judges, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and all other Magistrates, Officers and Ministers whatsoever and wheresoever, within England, Wales, and our Town of Berwick upon Tweed, That they and every of them, within their respective Places and Jurisdictions, do cause the said Acts, and all other Acts relating to the same Matters, to be in all and every the Parts and Branches thereof put in speedy and effectual Execution; and that they do take care, that no Licence be granted to any Badger, Lader, Kidder, Carrier or Buyer of Corn or Grain, but to such Persons as are or shall be Qualified for the same; according to the Directions of the Act of Parliament relating thereunto; and under such Sureties as those Acts do require; and that they do take care, that all Offenders against the said Acts be effectually prosecuted according to the purport of the said Acts. And we do hereby require and charge all our Officers, Ministers and loving Subjects whatsoever, to be aiding and assisting in the due Execution of this our Royal Proclamation, on pain of our high Displeasure. and of such Pains and Punishments as may by Law be inflicted upon the Contemners of our Royal Authority.

Given at Our Court at Windsor this Four and twentieth Day of October, 1709. In the Eighth Year of Our Reign.

God save the QUEEN.

W. B. C.