

C H A P.  
I.

Agents may  
require per-  
sons to give  
an account on  
oath, &c.

V. **And be it enacted,** That the agent or his assistant may require any person, being an inhabitant of the county wherein he is appointed, to give an account on oath, or affirmation if a quaker, menonist or dunker, (which oath or affirmation the said agent or his assistant is hereby authorised and empowered to administer, but shall not require or administer unless he shall have good cause to suspect that such person will not otherwise give a true account, or shall be informed that any person has purchased and hath for sale any quantity of the said articles of provision) how much he or she hath of any of the aforesaid articles, as he or she shall be requested to sell, over and above what is necessary for the common use and consumption of his or her family for this present year; and if such person shall refuse to sell such overplus to such agent or his assistant, at the rates herein before mentioned, then it shall and may be lawful for such agent or his assistant to take the same upon paying the owner the price herein respectively limited, or upon giving a certificate therefor if he shall not have money in hand to pay for the same; and in case such person shall refuse to declare upon oath or affirmation (if thereto required) what quantity he or she hath of any of the said articles as he or she shall be requested to sell, over and above what is necessary for the common use and consumption of his or her family for this present year, then such person shall be obliged, under the penalty of five hundred pounds current money, to give an account on oath, or affirmation if a quaker, menonist or dunker, (which oath or affirmation such agent or his assistant may administer) of all such of the aforesaid articles as he or she hath in his or her possession, and shall be requested to sell; and upon such discovery the agent or his assistant shall and may summon and call in two indifferent and reputable neighbours, (who have taken the oath of allegiance to this state, and who in case of disagreement shall call in a third) to determine on oath how much of the aforesaid articles such person can spare, over and above what is necessary for the common use and consumption of his or her family for this present year; and if such person shall refuse to sell to the agent or his assistant at the rates herein respectively limited, such part of the said articles as shall be so determined he can spare as aforesaid, then it shall and may be lawful for such agent or his assistant to take the same overplus, upon paying the owner thereof the price herein respectively limited, or upon giving a certificate therefor in case he shall not have money in hand to pay for the same, duplicates whereof shall every month be returned to the governor and council, with the other returns hereafter mentioned, which certificates shall be paid by the treasurer of the eastern and western shores respectively, or discounted out of the public assessment, at the option of the holder of such certificate.

Agent may  
call in the she-  
riff to his as-  
sistance, &c.

VI. **And be it enacted,** That if the agent or his assistant shall be obstructed in the execution of his office, he is hereby authorised and required to call on the sheriff of the county, or his deputy, who shall exert his authority to aid and assist him in carrying this law into effect.

And give in-  
formation to  
the county  
court, &c.

VII. **And be it enacted,** That the said agent or assistant shall, and they are hereby directed to give information to the next county court of all such persons who shall incur the penalty aforesaid, under the penalty of five pounds for every neglect.

VIII. **And**