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An Act for encouragement of such
persons as will undertake to build Water-
Mills.

Dayly Experience shewing that the Want of Water mills is the true cause that husbandry in tilling the Ground & for sowing of wheat and Barly is but coldly prosecuted though the advantage thereby in raising the stock of neat Cattle be great and forasmuch as for the most part the places fitt for setting up of Water mills are already in the hands of Persons under age or unable to be at the charge of building a water mill, or else such as are wilfully obstinate in forbidding and hindring such psons as would purchase the said places fitt for building water mills and set them up to the Encrease of our Trade and Navigation much to the Publick damage of the Province. Bee it Enacted by the King and Queens most excell^t Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of this p^rsent Generall Assembly and by the Authority of the same, That if any person or persons from and after the tenth day of June next Ensuing, shall desire to sett up a water mill upon any land next adjoyning to any run of water within this Province, not being the proper Possession or free hold of such person or persons nor leased to them) to the intent thereon to sett a water mill they shall purchase a Writt out of their Maj^{ty}s Court of Chancery directed to the Sherriff of the County where such Land lyeth requiring him by the Oaths of Twelve men of his County to enquire what damage it would be to their Majesties or others to have a Mill set up in such place as aforesaid, the form of which writt followeth Viz. William and Mary by the Grace of God of England Scotld France and Ireland King and Queen defenders of the Faith &c. To the Sherriff of A. B County Greeting Wee Command you that by the Oath of Twelve honest & lawfull men of the County by whom the truth of the Matter may be better known diligently to enquire if it be to the damage of us or others, if we grant to N: N: of N. County twenty Acres of Land lying at N: in the County aforesaid Viz. Tenn Acres on one side of such run and Ten Acres on the other side of such run of Water togeth^r with the liberty to take sell Cutt down and carry away either by Land or Water, any wood or Timber fitt for building a Mill other then Timber fit to splitt into Clap board upon any the Lands next adjoyning to the said twenty Acres of Land lying on each side of the run of Water at N: N: aforesaid in the County aforesaid, And if it be to the damage or prejudice of us or others then to what damage and what prejudice of us and to what damage and prejudice of others and of whom and in what manner and how and of who or of whom

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