

At a Sessions of Assembly begun and held at the Town and Port of *Annapolis*, *April* the Second, ended the Nineteenth of the same Month, *Anno Domini* 1706. in the Fifth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen *Anne*, &c. His Excellency *John Seymour*, Esq; being Governour, were Enacted these Laws following, *viz.*

An Act Encouraging the making Hemp and Flax within this Province.

THE Inhabitants of this Province being, in a great Measure encouraged by our Most Gracious Queens Royal Assent to an Act of Parliament made in the Third and Fourth Years of her said Majesty's Reign, entituled, *An Act for encouraging the Importation of Naval Stores from Her Majesty's Plantations in America*, to make Hemp within this Province, and this Present General Assembly being willing and desirous that the said Encouragement should not prove ineffectual, but that so good and great an Advantage to this Province should be furthered and promoted, for further Encouragement thereof, do pray that it may be Enacted,

And Be it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of her Majesties Governour, Council and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons living or inhabiting within this Province, shall hereafter make by him, her or themselves, or by his, her or their Servants or Workmen, upon any the Lands or Plantations within this Province, any Quantity or Quantities of Hemp or Flax, and cause the same to be Water Rotted, bright and clean, and made Merchantable, and that such Person or Persons making such Hemp or Flax be Indebted to any Person or Persons residing or trading into this Province in any Sum or Sums of Money or Tobacco, that then such Person or Persons to whom the same is or shall be due, shall be and are hereby obliged to take and receive off and from such his, her or their Debtor or Debtors tendring in some Port or Town within this Province, such Hemp or Flax, Water Rotted, bright clean, and made Merchantable, one fourth part of such Debt due from such Debtor or Debtors, that can and will tender and pay the same after the Rate of *Six Pence per Pound* for Hemp, and *Nine Pence per Pound* for Flax, and so proportionably for any greater or lesser Quantity, and according to the same Rate in *Tobacco* at one Penny per Pound; and if any Creditor or Creditors shall refuse to accept and take such Quantity of *Hemp* or *Flax* at the Rates aforesaid, when to them tendred, towards satisfaction of his Debt, and shall after such Tender bring any Action at Law against the Debtor for the same, that then such Debtor pleading a Tender of such *Hemp* or *Flax*, and proving the same to Effect, the Plaintiff shall be Non-suit, and shall pay Costs to the Defendant.

Hemp made a
Staple at six pence
per Pound and Flax
at nine pence.