

thought convenient to encourage the sowing of Hemp and flax in the Plantations as an inducement to the people to improve that as a staple and being fully persuaded of the fitness of our Lands for such purpose as well as the great profit & advantage likely thereby to accrue to Great Brittain and this Province, for preservation of the former and to encourage the sowing and propagating the Hemp and flax trade it is prayed that it may be Enacted

And Be it Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships Governour and the upper and lower Houses of this present Generall Assembly and the Authority of the same that no Tobacco after the tenth Day of October next shall be packed up in Cask or otherwise in order to be Shipt off and Exported out of this Province by any person or persons whatsoever or paid or tendered to be paid either in Cask or otherwise to Merchants Traders or Adventurers or others or shall be stemmed in order to be Shipped or otherwise disposed of by or to any person or persons whatsoever other than what is in good Condition and of a clear and clean Leaf free from ground Leaves frost bitten Leaves trashy Leaves Suckers or otherwise damaged Leaves whatsoever which shall exceed the Quantity of five pounds of Tobacco in any one Hogshead, Chest, case, tub, or other Package whatsoever under the Penalty of the Sum of one thousand pounds of Tobacco for every Hogshead of Tobacco, Tub or other Package not qualified as aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority Advice and consent aforesaid that no Master, Mistress, dame or Overseer or other person whatsoever after the last Day of June in any Year shall willingly or willingly suffer or cause to be Suffered any Tobacco to be planted upon any Lands or Plantations within this Province under their care or in their possession under the Penalty of two thousand pounds of Tobacco for each and every respective Taxable that at the time of such planting as aforesaid shall properly belong to and actually reside in or upon the plantation where such Tobacco shall be so planted, And for the encouragement of making Hemp and flax in this Province according to the Scheme transmitted hither by his Lordship the Lord Proprietary in pursuance of his Majesty's Royall Instructions. Be it Enacted by the Authority Advice and consent aforesaid

that any person or persons residing and inhabiting in this Province being indebted in Tobacco to any Merchant or other person trading and commencing in or to this Province may at his Choice and Election after the tenth Day of October next pay and discharge such his Tobacco Debt or Debts in good Sound Merchantable water wether Swingled and well dressed Flax or Hemp to be paid and delivered to such Creditor his factor or Agent in some one convenient place in the County where such Debtor dwells at the Rates following (that is to say) the Hemp aforesaid at the rate of Six pounds of Tobacco for pound and the Flax aforesaid at the Rate of Nine pounds of Tobacco for pound

And provided that this Law nor any clause therein contained shall any wise affect the Publick or County Levy and the forty per cent due to the Clergy of this Province but that the Levys Publick and County Taxes remain payable as if this Law had never been made And be it further Enacted by the Authority Advice and consent aforesaid that any person or persons whatsoever that shall have any Records suckers or slips turned out on his her or their Plantation or Plantations as aforesaid or shall house the same or shall strew or sow any Tobacco Ground or Tobacco Hills with Tobacco seed otherwise than according to the usuall Ways and Methods of sowing Tobacco beds and transplanting the plants therefrom, and of the same shall be lawfully convicted by the testimony of one Evidence confession of the party Charg'd or Verdict of twelve Men shall forfeit and pay for every Hundred Records Suckers or Slips