

An ACT concerning Tobacco.

WHEREAS Tobacco, the only Staple of this Province, and the principal Dependance of its Inhabitants, has been for several Years, and now is so very low, that the Makers of it cannot possibly support themselves by the Produce thereof: And whereas the large Quantities of Trash, and Unmerchantable Tobacco usually made and shipped, hath been, and always will be (if not remedied) very detrimental to the Trade in general; and that the Peoples Backwardness in getting their Tobacco ready in a reasonable Time, hath not only occasioned very great Delay and Charge, in the Lading and Discharge of Ships, but sometimes of the Loss of Ships and Mens Lives, and always of great Damage to the Tobacco it self, in Winter Passages; besides missing the Opportunity of early and quick Markets, (the Life of Trade :) For Remedy whereof,

Preambles

Be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons, having the immediate Rule, Directions or Government of any Plantation, where Tobacco is, or shall be made, shall false pack any Hoghead, or other Package, or use any fraudulent or deceitful Practice or Means, to conceal or hide any Frost-bitten trashy Ground-Leaves, small Scrubs, Stalks, Stems, Wood, Dirt, or any manner of Trash, or decayed old Tobacco, and shall offer or tender to sell, or pay away the same, as good merchantable Tobacco, and shall be convict of such false packing, before any Justice of the Peace, who shall, by Virtue of this Act, have Cognizance thereof, as in case of small Debts, shall, for every such Offence, forfeit Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, to the Party to whom such Tobacco shall be paid, or tendered, or offered to be paid; if such Party will prosecute for the same within Two Months after the Offence committed: And in case such Party shall neglect or refuse to prosecute, the said Penalty shall and may be recoverable by any other Person, to his own Use, that will inform and prosecute for the same, before any such Justice. Any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary, notwithstanding.

No Tobacco to be false packt.

On Forfeiture.

And be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons making Tobacco within this Province, shall be oblig'd to get the same ready packed and prized for Shipping, by the last Day of May Yearly, during the Continuance of this Act; and that any Person or Persons, that shall neglect or refuse to get his or their Tobacco ready, as aforesaid, and shall presume to sell or ship any Tobacco so neglected to be got ready, 'till the Tenth Day of November then next, shall forfeit such Tobacco, or the full Value thereof; one Moiety to be applied toward the Support of the Free-School of the County where the Fact shall be committed, and the other Moiety to him or them that will sue for the same; to be recovered in the County-court, by

All Markets of Tobacco to get it ready packt and priz'd for shipping, by the last Day of May, or not sell or ship it 'till the 10th Day of November, on Forfeiture of it.

Action