

C H A P. XVII.

An ACT for the inspection of salted provisions exported and imported from and to the town of Baltimore.

Enacted January 20.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that great impositions daily arise from the exportation and sale of unsound salted provisions, and there not being any regulations for the prevention of such frauds: Therefore,

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That the commissioners of Baltimore-town, or the major part of them, shall meet between the first and twentieth days of March next, and between the first and twentieth days of March yearly, and every year thereafter, during the continuance of this act, and then nominate and appoint a person of good repute, and skilful in the goodness, quality, and well curing of salted beef, pork, and fish of every kind, to be inspector of salted provisions, within the said town, for the year ensuing.

Commissioners to meet, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That every commissioner, who shall vote for the said officer, shall take the following oath before he shall proceed to the nomination and appointment of the said officer: "I, A. B. do swear, that I will faithfully, honestly and impartially, nominate and appoint such person to be inspector of salted provisions within the said town, as I think in my judgment and conscience is fit and capable of executing the said office."

Their oath.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That in case of the death of such officer so appointed, or his refusal or neglect to act, the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall, as soon as conveniently may be thereafter, meet together and appoint one other such person as aforesaid, in the stead of the person so dying, or refusing or neglecting to act, for the residue of the year; and if the said commissioners shall neglect and omit to nominate and appoint such officer, then the governor and council may appoint such officer, who shall be qualified agreeably to the directions of this act, and have the like power and authority as if he had been by the said commissioners nominated and appointed.

How vacancies are to be filled.

V. *And be it enacted,* That all salted beef, pork, and fish of every kind, brought or imported into the said town, from any part of this state, or any one of the United States, or from any foreign port whatever, from and after the first day of April next, shall be made merchantable, sound, and fit for use.

Beef, &c. to be made merchantable.

VI. *And be it enacted,* That from and after the first day of November next, all beef and pork barrels brought to, or imported into, Baltimore-town, from any part of this state, shall be made of good seasoned materials, well made, tightened with twelve hoops, sufficiently nailed with four nails in each chine hoop, and three nails in each upper bilge hoop, sufficient to hold pickle, and of the following dimensions, viz. the staves to be of the length of twenty-nine inches, and eighteen inches diameter at the head: All fish barrels imported or brought in as aforesaid, shall be made of good seasoned materials, well made, tightened with twelve hoops, sufficiently nailed in manner aforesaid, sufficient to hold pickle, and of the following dimensions, to wit, the staves of the length of twenty-eight inches, and eighteen inches diameter at the head.

Barrels to be made of good materials, &c.

VII. *And be it enacted,* That all persons packing and curing beef or pork as aforesaid, shall put in the said barrels the full quantity of two hundred and twenty pounds net weight; and that if any person or persons shall pack any beef or pork barrel with a less quantity than is directed by this act to be contained in the barrels of the size and dimensions aforesaid, he or they shall forfeit, if the deficiency be three pounds, six-pence current money, if six pounds, one shilling and six-pence, and six-pence per pound for every pound deficient above six pounds.

Quantity to be put in each barrel, &c.

VIII. *And be it enacted,* That all and every barrel of beef, pork and fish, brought to the said town for sale or exportation, shall be submitted to the view and

To be viewed, &c.