

as effectually as if this act had not been made, anything herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

[Section III.] Provided also, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to bar or hinder the creditors of the said George Croghan and William Trent or either of them from suing for and prosecuting their just and legal demands against the said George Croghan and William Trent or either of them, from and after the expiration of the said term of ten years, in the same manner they might or could do at the time of making this act, anything in the act of limitations or any other act to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

Passed December 3, 1755. Repealed by the King in Council, June 16, 1758. See Appendix XXI, Section IV.

CHAPTER CCCCVIII.

AN ACT FOR DISPERSING THE INHABITANTS OF NOVA SCOTIA IMPORTED INTO THIS PROVINCE INTO THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF PHILADELPHIA, BUCKS, CHESTER AND LANCASTER AND THE TOWNSHIPS THEREOF, AND MAKING PROVISIONS FOR THE SAME.

Whereas the governor and council of Nova Scotia have thought it most advantageous to the British interest to transport many of the inhabitants thereof into other of His Majesty's colonies in North America, numbers of whom have been brought into this province destitute of the means of supporting themselves and their numerous families; whereupon, in compassion to their unhappy situation, they have been permitted to land and have been maintained at the public charge, it being altogether impracticable for them under their distressed circumstances to procure their own necessary subsistence. And whereas the dispersing the several families and persons into different townships and parts of this province may give them an opportunity of exercising their own labor and industry, whereby they may procure a comfortable subsistence for themselves and ease the public of this heavy expense, which must otherwise prove a grievous burden upon the inhabitants of this province.

[Section I.] Be it therefore enacted by the Honorable Robert Hunter Morris, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That William Griffiths, Jacob Duche and Thomas Say, for the county of Philadelphia; Griffith Owen, Samuel Brown and Abraham De Normandie, for the county of Bucks; Nathaniel Pennock, Nathaniel Grubb and John Hannum, for the county of Chester, and Calvin Cooper, James Webb and Samuel Le Fevre, for the county of Lancaster or a majority of them or of the survivors of them, shall have full power and they are hereby required and enjoined within twenty days after the passing of this act to order and appoint the disposition of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia imported and permitted to be landed within this province as aforesaid into the several counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster, or such of them as may best answer the purposes intended by this act, in such manner and proportions as to them shall appear most equitable under the limitations hereinafter-mentioned, regard being had to such lands and plantations or other employments as may be procured for them towards maintaining themselves and families and thereby easing the province of the heavy charge of supporting them in the manner hitherto used.

And for the more effectual settling and employing the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia within the respective counties aforesaid:

[Section II.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the overseers of the poor of the several townships within the said counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster for the time being shall and they are hereby required and enjoined to accept of, provide for and receive into their respective townships such of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia, imported into this province as aforesaid, as shall be allotted and sent into their said townships by an order under the hands and seals of at least two of the persons hereinbefore nominated and ap-

pointed for the county or counties to which such township or townships do belong.

Provided, That not more than one family be allotted to the care of the overseers of the poor of any one township within the counties aforesaid, which said overseers shall and they are hereby enjoined to procure in the best manner they are able such settlements or other employ as may be most suitable to the circumstances of the families and persons allotted and appointed for their respective townships in the manner hereinbefore-directed, which said overseers of the poor shall keep just and true accounts of all such unavoidable charges and expenses as shall or may accrue thereupon, to be transmitted under their respective oaths or affirmations to the persons herein-nominated and appointed for the counties to which the said townships do belong, to be settled, allowed of and paid as is hereinafter-directed and appointed.

[Section III.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners hereinbefore-nominated for the disposition of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia into the several counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster or a majority of them shall audit, settle and allow of all such accounts as shall arise by virtue of this act. And whereas many of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia have been bred up to the management of farms, and may by their honest labor and industry procure a subsistence for themselves and their families, as other inhabitants of this province are known to do, on rented plantations, provided they may be had on reasonable terms, and some small assistance afforded them towards the settlement thereof:

[Section IV.] Be it enacted, That the said William Griffiths, Jacob Duche, Thomas Say, Griffith Owen, Samuel Brown, Abraham De Normandie, Nathaniel Pennock, Nathaniel Grubb, John Hannum, Calvin Cooper, James Webb and Samuel Le Fevre or a majority of them shall have power and they are hereby authorized and directed to purchase and procure for the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia such stock or utensils of husbandry as they in their discretion shall judge necessary for making the said settlement.

Provided, The supplies allotted to any single family do not exceed in the whole the sum of ten pounds.

And for preventing all disputes which may arise upon the allotting and settling the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia in the respective townships according to the directions of this act:

[Section V.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when and so often as the overseers of the poor of any township within the said counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Lancaster shall neglect or refuse to make provision for such persons or families as shall be sent into their respective townships as aforesaid by the space of seven days next after the receipt of such orders as are hereinbefore-directed, then it shall and may be lawful for the persons hereinbefore-nominated for the respective counties to which such township or townships do belong or any two of them to settle and provide for the said persons and families in the best manner they are able within the respective townships, to be maintained at the charge of the township or townships so neglecting or refusing as aforesaid, to be recovered of the overseer or overseers of the said townships as debts under forty shillings until the said overseer or overseers of the poor of the said townships respectively, or some other person or persons in their behalf shall procure suitable employ or otherwise settle the persons or families allotted to their respective townships according to the directions of this act.

Provided always, That when and so often as any of the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia so as aforesaid allotted to any of the respective townships aforesaid by virtue of this act shall by sickness or other misfortune be rendered incapable to support themselves in the said townships or places to which they are ordered and allotted, the unavoidable charges arising thereon shall be and are hereby declared to be a proper charge within the meaning of this act, to be allowed of and defrayed as is hereinafter-directed.

And forasmuch as the danger of a frontier settlement heretofore occupied by the said inhabitants of Nova Scotia and others commonly known by the name of the French neutrals appears to have been the motive of their dispersion into other His Maj-

esty's colonies in North America, and it may be for the service of the Crown to unite them with his loyal subjects in the said colonies:

[Section VI.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the charges of settling the said inhabitants and families so as aforesaid imported into this government shall be defrayed and paid out of the money given to the King's use by an act of this assembly, entitled "An act for granting the sum of sixty thousand pounds to the King's use and for striking fifty-five thousand pounds thereof in bills of credit and to provide a fund for sinking the same."¹ And all orders drawn for that purpose by the overseers of the poor of the respective townships for the sum and sums of money by them expended for the purposes in this act directed after their accounts have been examined and [allowed of as aforesaid, which shall be duly certified on the back of the said order] by two or more of the persons hereinbefore-mentioned, shall be directed to the commissioners appointed by the said act and paid accordingly.

[Section VII.] Provided, That this act shall continue in force for the space of twelve months, and from thence to the end of the next sitting of assembly and no longer.

Passed March 5, 1756. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, August 18, 1756, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXI, Section IV. Repealed by the Act of Assembly passed January 18, 1757, Chapter 416.

CHAPTER CCCCIX.

AN ACT FOR REGULATING THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS COMMISSIONATED AND RAISED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE DEFENSE OF THIS PROVINCE.

Whereas in pursuance of the powers granted by the royal charter to our late honored proprietor, William Penn, Esquire, and his successors, and to his or their deputy or deputies,

¹ Passed November 27, 1755, Chapter 406.