

At a General Assembly begun and holden at Philadelphia the fourteenth day of October, A. D. 1768, and continued by adjournments until the thirtieth day of September, 1769, the following acts were passed:

CHAPTER DLXXIX.

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE MANAGERS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA TO RAISE THE SUM OF FOURTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS IN BILLS OF CREDIT TOWARDS DISCHARGING THEIR DEBTS, AND TO PROVIDE A FUND FOR REDEEMING AND SINKING THE SAID BILLS.

Whereas in pursuance of the acts of general assembly of this province, one of them passed in the seventh year of His present Majesty's reign, entitled "An act for amending the act, entitled 'An act for the better employment, relief and support of the poor within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, the townships of Moyamensing and Passyunk and the Northern Liberties,'" ¹ and the other of them passed in the same year, entitled "An act to enable the managers of the contributions for the relief and employment of the poor in the city of Philadelphia to borrow the further sum of three thousand pounds," ² the said managers did borrow the several sums of six thousand pounds and three thousand pounds for the uses and purposes in the said acts mentioned, which several sums of money were directed to be paid off and discharged out of the moneys which they, the said managers, should raise by the sale of the almshouse square or lot of ground, with the buildings thereon erected, and in case the moneys arising from such sale should not be sufficient for that and other purposes in the said acts men-

¹ Passed February 20, 1768, Chapter 573.

² Passed September 26, 1767, Chapter 567.

tioned, that the deficiency should be paid and satisfied by a just and proportionable rate or tax to be laid, assessed and levied on all estates real and personal within the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark and the townships of Moyamensing, Passyunk and the Northern Liberties:

And whereas the said managers have represented to the assembly of this province that from the great scarcity of money they have found it impracticable to sell the said almshouse square or lot of ground and buildings at any reasonable price, and that it would be extremely distressing to the inhabitants of the said city, district and townships should the said sums of money so borrowed with the other debts aforesaid due from the said managers be immediately levied on the said estates:

And whereas it is expedient that the said sums so borrowed, with the other debts contracted by the said managers, should be paid off and discharged:

For which purposes:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor under the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania and 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 bills of credit to the value of fourteen thousand pounds shall be prepared and printed within two months next after the passing of this act on good, strong paper, under the care and direction of Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, Esquires, or any three of them, the charges whereof shall be paid by the treasurer of the contributors to the relief and employment of the poor in the city of Philadelphia out of the moneys which he shall receive as treasurer to the said contributors, which bills of credit shall be made and prepared in the manner and form following, viz.:

“This indented bill of shall entitle the bearer to receive of the treasurer of the contributors to the relief and employment of the poor in the city of Philadelphia the like sum of of equal value with the same sum of the bills of credit of this province now by law current according to

the directions of an act of general assembly of Pennsylvania made in the ninth year of the reign of His Majesty George the Third. Dated the tenth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine."

And whereas the trade and commerce of this province are carried on with the greater difficulty from the want of small change:

[Section II.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said bills shall have such like escutcheons as in the margin hereof, with such other devices as the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, shall think proper, as well to prevent counterfeits as to distinguish their several and respective denominations, each of which bills shall be of the several denominations following and no other: That is to say:



One thousand of the same bills, the sum of twenty shillings in each of them.

One thousand of the same bills, the sum of fifteen shillings in each of them.

Two thousand of the same bills, the sum of ten shillings in each of them.

Five thousand of the same bills, the sum of five shillings in each of them.

Twelve thousand of the same bills, the sum of two shillings and six pence in each of them.

Twenty thousand of the same bills, the sum of two shillings in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of one shilling and six pence in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of one shilling in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of nine pence in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of six pence in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of four pence in each of them.

Thirty thousand of the same bills, the sum of three pence in each of them.

And the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, shall use their best care, attention and diligence during the printing the said bills that the number and amount thereof according to their respective denominations aforesaid be not exceeded, nor any clandestine or fraudulent practice used by the printer, his servants or others concerned therein.

And for the perfecting the said bills according to the true intent and meaning of this act:

[Section III.] Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every of the said bills the denominations whereof shall be one shilling and upwards shall be signed by any three of the persons hereinafter named, and that every of the said bills the denominations whereof shall be under one shilling shall be signed by any one of the persons hereinafter named: That is to say, by Joseph Fox, Samuel Rhoads, Luke Morris, Jacob Lewis, Thomas Say, Samuel Burge, Abel James, Stephen Collins, James Penrose, John Parrock, Joseph Wharton, the younger, and Charles Thompson, who are hereby nominated and appointed to be signers of the said bills, and shall, before they receive or sign any of them, take an oath or affirmation to the effect following, viz.:

“That they shall well and truly sign and number all the bills that shall come to their hands for that purpose by the direction of this act, and the same so signed and numbered will deliver or cause to be delivered unto the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, pursuant to the direction of this act.”

And for avoiding the danger of embezzlement or misapplication of the said bills of credit:

[Section IV.] Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, after the said bills shall be printed shall deliver them to the signers aforesaid to be signed and numbered by parcels, for which the said signers or some of them shall give their receipt: That is to say, two thousand pounds value in the said bills at one time,

and so from time to time until all the said bills of credit shall be signed and numbered, in such manner that not more than the value of two thousand pounds shall remain in such signers' hands at one time, of all which said bills of credit so delivered to be signed a true account shall be kept by the signers, who, upon their re-delivery of each or any parcel of the said bills by them signed and numbered, shall take the receipt of the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, to charge them before any committee of assembly to be appointed for that purpose.

[Section V.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as soon as the said bills shall be signed, numbered and perfected the said Joseph Richardson, James Pemberton, Michael Hillegas and Isaac Pearson, or any three of them, shall deliver to the said treasurer and take his receipt or receipts for the same, who shall therewith pay off and discharge all such drafts and orders as shall be drawn on him by the said managers, or a majority of them, for and towards the payment of the said sums of money so as aforesaid borrowed, with the interest thereof, and such other debts as are now due from or contracted by the said managers in pursuance of their trust as managers of the contributions for the relief and employment of the poor in the city of Philadelphia.

[Section VI.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall presume to counterfeit any of the said bills of credit made and issued by virtue of this act by printing or procuring the same to be printed in the likeness or similitude of the said bills of credit, or if any person or persons shall forge the name or names of the signers of the said true bills of credit to such counterfeit bills, whether the counterfeiting of the said bills of credit or names be done within this province or elsewhere, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be counterfeited as aforesaid, and being thereof legally convicted by confession, standing mute or by the verdict of twelve men in any court of oyer and terminer within this province, he, she or they shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and the discoverer or informer shall have as an encouragement to his discovery the sum of fifty pounds of

the value of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the person or persons convicted; and if no such goods and chattels, lands and tenements can be found, the sum of ten pounds, to be paid by the said treasurer out of the moneys aforesaid; and if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit by altering the denominations thereof with design to increase the value of the said bills, or shall utter such bills knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered and shall thereof be legally convicted in any court of quarter sessions of the peace within this province, every such person and persons shall be sentenced to the pillory, have both his or her ears cut off and nailed to the pillory and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back with thirty-nine lashes, well laid on, and, moreover, every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, to be levied on his or her lands, tenements, goods and chattels, one-half thereof to the treasurer of the said contributors for the employment and relief of the poor and the other half thereof to the discoverer, and the offender shall pay to the party grieved double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of the prosecution; and in case the offender shall not have sufficient to satisfy such discoverer for his or her charges and damages and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, he or she shall be sold for any term not exceeding seven years to make such satisfaction, and in such case the said discoverer shall be paid by the said treasurer the sum of ten pounds; and every such counterfeit bill shall be delivered to the said treasurer to be made use of upon the trial of the person accused or suspected, and afterwards to be burnt, sunk and destroyed in the presence of a committee of assembly.

And whereas it is expedient and necessary that the said bills of credit hereby directed to be made and emitted should be paid off and discharged and burnt, sunk and destroyed as soon as conveniently may be:

[Section VII.] Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said managers shall from time to time, as occasion may require, grant, bargain and dispose of such parts of the said almshouse square or lot of ground as remain unsold, and the rents reserved on any part thereof, and that

the moneys arising from such sales shall be paid into the hands of the said treasurer, who shall and he is hereby enjoined and required, out of the said moneys, to pay off, discharge and redeem at least the sum of one thousand pounds yearly and every year until the whole sum of fourteen thousand pounds hereby directed to be emitted shall be paid off and redeemed; but in case the said managers shall not be able by the sales of the said almshouse square or lot of ground to raise the said sum of one thousand pounds yearly and every year until the whole sum of fourteen thousand pounds aforesaid shall be paid off and redeemed, that then and in such case the deficiency shall be paid and satisfied by a just and proportionable rate and tax to be laid, assessed and levied on all estates, real and personal, within the said city of Philadelphia, district of Southwark and townships of Moyamensing, Passyunk and the Northern Liberties, by the same persons and under the same penalties, to be recovered in the same manner and in the same proportions in the said city, district and townships as the sums to be raised for the relief of the poor are or shall be at the time laid, assessed and levied, and when so levied to be paid to the treasurer of the said contributors, to be by him applied to the payment and discharge of the residue of the said bills of credit, and that the mayor, recorder and any two aldermen of the said city and three justices of the county of Philadelphia, upon such deficiency appearing to them from the accounts of the said managers, which shall be laid before them for that purpose, shall forthwith certify the same in writing under their hands to the overseers of the poor of the said city, district and townships respectively in order that the said deficiency may be laid, assessed and levied in manner aforesaid.

[Section VIII.] And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said treasurer upon such payment and discharge of every of the said bills of credit shall receive the same of the respective bearers, and yearly as they come to his hands deliver them over to such committee of assembly for the time being as shall be appointed to settle the public accounts, to be by them burnt, sunk and destroyed.

[Section IX.] And be it further enacted by the authority

aforesaid, That the said treasurer shall and he is hereby enjoined and required in the paying off and discharging the said bills to receive in exchange all such of the same as are torn, ragged and defaced and tendered to him for that purpose.

[Section X.] And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That so much of the said recited acts of g[eneral] assembly [as is] hereby altered and supplied shall be and is hereby declared to be repealed, null and void, and that the residue thereof shall be and remain in full force and virtue to all intents and purposes as if this act had never been made.

Passed February 18, 1769. Referred for consideration by the King in Council, February 26, 1770, and allowed to become a law by lapse of time in accordance with the proprietary charter. See Appendix XXVII, Section I, and the note to the Act of Assembly passed February 8, 1766, Chapter 534.

CHAPTER DLXXX.

AN ACT FOR RAISING THE SUM OF SIXTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS PROVINCE AND THE PAYMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBTS AND OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

Whereas through the scarcity of gold and silver within this province occasioned by the frequent remittances thereof to Great Britain in discharge of the debts continually accruing by the importations of manufactures and merchandise from thence, together with the heavy taxes under which the inhabitants now labor for sinking the bills of credit emitted during the late war and granted to His Majesty for the protection of his American Dominions, it would be extremely distressing to the people of this province to impose on them an additional tax to be immediately levied on their real and personal estates, yet we, the representatives of the freemen of the said province, being desirous of supporting the honor and dignity of the government, of discharging the debts and incidental expenses thereof, and of preserving the public credit, do pray that it may be enacted:

[Section I.] And be it enacted by the Honorable John Penn,