

Child or Children as heretofore they might have done; any Thing in this Act to the contrary, notwithstanding.

*An ACT giving Encouragement to make Hemp,  
within this Province.*

**F**ORASMUCH as the Tobacco-Trade is reduc'd to very mean Circumstances, and it is generally thought that the making of Hemp will be of great Use, not only to this Province, but to the Kingdom of Great-Britain, for supplying of Naval Stores :

*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, living or inhabiting within this Province, shall hereafter make, either by themselves, their Servants or Slaves, upon any the Lands or Plantations within this Province, any Quantity or Quantities of Hemp, and cause the same to be cleaned, and made merchantable, they shall be allowed as a Bounty for their Encouragement, the Quantity of One Hundred Pounds of Tobacco, for every Hundred Weight of Hemp they shall so make, as aforesaid, and pro rato, for a greater or lesser Quantity; to be levied (together with the Sheriffs Salary for collecting the same) by the Justices of the severall and respective County-Courts within this Province, by an equal Assessment upon the Taxable Persons within that County where such Hemp shall be made as aforesaid; and collected by the Sheriff of the County, as Part of the County Levy, and by him to be paid to whomsoever it shall become due.*

*And every Person as aforesaid, that shall make any Quantity of Hemp, clean and merchantable, and want the Allowance aforesaid for the same, such Person or Persons are hereby directed to apply themselves to any Justice of the Peace for the County where such Hemp shall be made; every which Justice (upon Application to him to be made as aforesaid) is hereby empowered and required to appoint some Person of honest Reputation, to go with the Person applying to him, to take a just and true Account of the Weight and Quality of all such Hemp that he craves Allowance for, and return the same to such Justice, upon Oath: And if it shall appear to the said Justice, by the Oath of such Person appointed as aforesaid, that the said Hemp is clean and merchantable, and the Party also making such Oath, before such Justice, that such Hemp was made within that County, and that he, nor any other Person hath ever had any Allowance or Certificate for the same; such Justice shall then give such Person a Certificate of the Quantity of such Hemp: And upon such Person or Persons producing such Certificate or Certificates, to the County Court, the Justices thereof are hereby required to make them such Allowances as before mentioned.*

*This Act to continue Three Years, and to the End of the next Sessions of Assembly which shall first happen after the said Three Years.*