

dred sloops, shallops and lighters employed thereat, and by this privilege of lading to the quantity of six hogsheads of the enumerated commodities on each sloop without entry or clearing bond or certificate (as provided in the above act) it will not be difficult in a very little time thereby to load and unload any foreign ships of how great burthen so ever. Moreover, the Province of Narragansett Bay to Port Royal being about 300 leagues on ye sea coast in which space are contained some hundred harbours, creeks and coves." It was evidently the opinion of the Board that this act would afford too good opportunities for illicit trade, especially a further provision of the same act which "permitted the transportation of sugar and tobacco by land and water within the province on the *pretence* (as the Report puts it) of supplying the inhabitants only." This provision therefore of the act and the former clause which allowed a limited trade along the coast without any formal entry or clearing bond, were decided by the Privy Council "to be contrary to the usage and practice of the other Plantations and contrary to the acts of Navigation and Trade." It was therefore disallowed.

In the case of the second<sup>10</sup> of these two acts disallowed by the same order-in-council of Dec. 26, 1695, the reasons for disallowance are not so clearly expressed. If this act had been passed some time after 1700, it would probably not have been disallowed. But just at this time the policy of the Home Government was to make the trade regulations of the colonies conform absolutely to the English laws of Navigation and Trade. The representation of the Board of Trade to the Privy Council said in regard to this act: "But as the act for restraining the exportation of raw hides and skins. The said commodity not being enumerated in any of the laws of England for regulating and securing the Plantation Trade, are not properly under our cognizance. Yet for anything before us, we see not but what it may be a beneficial act and fit to be approved of, if it shall seem meet to His Majesty." Apparently

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<sup>10</sup>Chap. xix, Mass. Acts and Resolves 1692, entitled 'An Act to restrain the exportation of raw hides and skins out of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and for the better preservation and increase of deer in the said Province.'