

CAP. VII.

An Act to provide for the necessities of the Province,
occasioned by the failure of the late Crop.

Passed the 22d of March, 1817.

Preamble

WHEREAS Legislative aid is required to alleviate the extraordinary distress of many of the Inhabitants of this Province.

Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Council, in the several Counties to inquire into the wants of the inhabitants,

To be sworn before a Justice of the Peace.

I. *Be it enacted by the President, Council and Assembly,* That as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act, a proper number of fit persons, not exceeding five nor less than three Freeholders and Inhabitants in the several and respective Counties in this Province, being appointed Commissioners in each and every of the said Counties respectively by the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander-in-Chief, by and with the advice and consent of His Majesty's Council, for the purpose of making inquiry into the wants and sufferings of the Inhabitants in their several and respective Counties, occasioned by the failure of the Crops in the last year, shall be sworn to the diligent, faithful and impartial discharge of the duties enjoined upon them by this Act, before some one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the County for which they shall be respectively appointed, which oath the said Justices are hereby authorised respectively to administer.

Commissioners to make diligent inquiry into the wants of Persons applying to them,

And after due consultation to purchase Grain and Potatoes for seed,

And also to relieve the wants of indigent inhabitants,

To take receipts for articles supplied with promises to repay the same without interest at the price for which the same were purchased,

II. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners thereupon without delay, and with all practicable diligence and dispatch, to make inquiry into the wants and sufferings as aforesaid of the several and respective Inhabitants in their several and respective Counties, who shall make application to them in this behalf; and the said Commissioners or the major part of them in the several and respective Counties after due consultation thereon, shall be and they are hereby authorised forthwith to purchase and provide such quantities of Seed Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oats, Indian Corn or Potatoes as shall be necessary for the supply of the several and respective Inhabitants applying to them for the same, for seed for the ensuing spring, in such proportions and in such quantities as the said Commissioners or the major part of them shall judge sufficient for the wants of such Inhabitants in this behalf; and also to relieve the wants and sufferings of such indigent Inhabitants as may stand in absolute need thereof; and it shall be the duty of the said Commissioners, and they are hereby respectively authorised and required in all cases to take from such persons respectively a receipt in writing for the amount in value, at the price for which the same shall have been purchased, of such articles as shall be supplied and delivered to them, with a promise in such receipt to be accountable for and to repay such amount without interest, to the Province Treasurer or his Deputy in the several and respective Counties, or to such other person as shall be appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Commander-in-Chief of the Province to receive the same: PROVIDED ALWAYS, That upon the pro-

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