

of fifty pounds, with two sufficient Sureties, and shall be sworn to the diligent and faithful discharge of their trust, and shall continue in such office until other proper persons are appointed in their stead.

Half the forfeitures to be to the benefit of the county, and the other half to the prosecutors.

How recoverable.

VIII. *And be it further enacted*, That one half of all forfeitures or fines arising by virtue of this act, shall be to him or them who shall sue for the same, and the other half to the benefit of the county where such offence shall be committed; and if the same shall not exceed *twenty shillings* it shall be recoverable before any one of HIS MAJESTY'S Justices of the Peace, or where the same shall be more than *twenty shillings* and shall not exceed *three pounds*, before any two of HIS MAJESTY'S Justices of the Peace, on the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, by warrant of distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels under the hand and seal of such Justice or Justices, and for want of sufficient distress, such offender shall suffer not less than *ten*, nor more than *thirty* days imprisonment; and in case such fine or the value thereof shall exceed *three pounds* the same may be recovered in any of HIS MAJESTY'S Courts of Record in this province with costs of suit.

Prosecutions to be within six months.

IX. *And be it further enacted*, That all prosecutions by force of this act shall be commenced within *six months* after the time such offence was committed.

This act to be read at the Court of Sessions of the peace in each county.

X. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall be read and published at the opening of the next Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the several counties within this province.

C A P. V.

An Act to PREVENT the GROWTH of
THISTLES. Passed the 18th Feb-
ruary 1797.

Preamble.

WHEREAS, the growth and increase of Thistles tend to impede the cultivation and improvement of lands in many parts of this province: AND WHEREAS, it is difficult to make regulations that will be beneficial to the different counties.

I. Be