

AN ORDINANCE, Concerning Bakers of Bread in the Towns of Quebec and Montreal (1).

Preamble.

WHEREAS it happens, from the great and unavoidable badness of the roads in this Province at particular Seasons of the year, that it is extremely difficult and almost impracticable at such times and seasons for the Country People in the neighbourhood of the Towns of Quebec and Montreal, to bring any Supplies of Corn or other Provisions into the said Towns; And the said Towns are thereby exposed to the danger of a Scarcity of Corn and other necessary victuals, even when there is a Sufficient quantity thereof in the Province, unless care be taken by the persons who supply the said Towns with the same, and more especially by those who Bake and Sell Bread therein, to provide before hand a sufficient Stock thereof to supply the Inhabitants of the said Towns during the continuance of such unhappy times and seasons: AND WHEREAS it has been found that a great number of persons, who follow the Trade of Baking and selling Bread in the said Towns of Quebec, and Montreal, and in the Suburbs of the same, have, at particular times, when Wheaten flour has been scarce and difficult to be procured, suddenly shut up their shops, and refused to bake or sell any bread to their Customers; And their said Customers thereupon have been obliged to have recourse to other Bakers, who have not discontinued their said Trade, to be supplied with Bread for their daily Sustenance; AND these latter Bakers have oftentimes not been able to supply such Occasional Customers with Bread on these Occasions, by reason that they have only laid in a Sufficient Stock of Flour to provide Bread for their usual and Constant Customers, upon whose Custom they can depend; which has caused a great and unnecessary scarcity and dearth of Bread in the said Towns, which has been very grievous to the poorer sort of the Inhabitants of the same; AND WHEREAS the practice of suddenly leaving off the business of Baking and selling bread, when the profits attending it are small, and resuming it when it is grown more advantageous, is highly and unjustly prejudicial to the Interest of those more usefull Bakers who, notwithstanding the difficulties they Labour under at particular times, yet persevere in Supplying the public with bread constantly throughout the year: AND these inconveniences make it necessary that some Method should be taken to compell all those persons who shall for the future carry on the Trade of Baking and selling Bread in the said Towns of Quebec and Montreal, to continue the same throughout the year without such intermissions as have been before mentioned: IT IS THEREFORE ORDAINED and DECLARED, by His Excellency the Captain General and Governor in Chief of this Province, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of the same, that from and after the First day of August next, in this present year of Our Lord One thousand, seven hundred and sixty nine, no person whatsoever shall Bake and Sell Bread in either of the said Towns of Quebec and Montreal, or the Suburbs thereof, without having first entered into a Recognizance to the King's Majesty in the sum of Four Score Spanish Dollars, with two Sureties in the sum of forty Dollars each, to keep and observe the Ordinances of this Province concerning the assize and weight of Bread, and the Regulations relating thereto, that are or shall be

No person shall carry on the Business of a Baker without entering into a Recognizance to continue to Bake and sell Bread all the year, and to keep the Ordinances relating to the assize & weight of Bread.

¹ Que. Leg. Council, p. 56 (Can. Arch.).