

neral Assembly for the further increase of the Revenue, by raising a Duty of Excise on all Goods, Wares and Merchandise, imported into this Province: and every matter, clause and thing, therein mentioned, be continued, and the same are hereby continued until the eighteenth day of March, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and no longer.

CAP. VII.

An ACT for regulating Elections of Representatives to serve in General Assembly.

BE it enacted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, That, from and after the publication hereof, every Sheriff or other Officer to whom any Writ for electing a Member or Members to serve in General Assembly of this Province shall be directed, upon the receipt thereof shall indorse upon the back thereof the day he received the same, and shall forthwith give public notice of the day and place of Election, by putting up advertisements at least ten days before the time of such Election, at five of the most public places in the County or Town; and shall, at the time appointed, at the County Court House, if the election be held for the County, and at the most central and convenient place if held for a Township, between the hours of ten and twelve in the morning, proceed by reading his Writ, and shall appoint two Freeholders as his Assistants or Clerks in conducting the election, who shall be sworn to the faithful and impartial discharge of their duty; and the Sheriff shall not declare the choice upon the view, nor adjourn from that to any other place without the consent of the Candidates, nor by any unnecessary adjournment delay the election; but, if a Poll be required, fairly and impartially proceed from day to day to take the Poll, until all the Electors then and there present be polled; and before the Sheriff shall close the Poll so opened, unless with the consent of the Candidates, he shall make proclamation for the Freeholders to come forward and give their Votes; and if, after such proclamation made, no Freeholder shall appear to Vote for the space of one hour, the Poll shall be closed, and the Sheriff at the close of the Poll, shall declare the person or persons having the majority of Votes to be duly elected; and in case a scrutiny shall be demanded, the Sheriff shall grant the same, and shall, with his two assistants, proceed in such scrutiny, if the party demanding shall persist in his demand, the day following the close of the Poll, and shall, if required by any Candidate, scrutinize all Votes that have been objected to, whether by the said Candidate or by any other Candidate.

Provided always, That no Vote shall be scrutinized but such Vote or Votes as were objected to at the time such Vote was given and marked as such on the Poll Book by the Sheriff or his assistants; and the Sheriff shall return his proceeding on such scrutiny to the House of Assembly, to be adjudged on and determined. And the Sheriff or other Officer is hereby directed and commanded, to appoint one Clerk and one Inspector for each Candidate, who shall be nominated by the Candidates respectively, which Clerk shall be sworn by the Sheriff to take the Poll fairly and impartially by setting down the names of the Electors and the place of their abode, and the name of the Candidate or Candidates they give their Vote for, and the Sheriff shall give a copy of the Poll to each of the Candidates that shall desire the

Writs.

Notice of Day and place of Election.

Opening Poll. Sheriff assisted by two Freeholders.

Declaring Choice.

Scrutiny.

Proviso.

Return of proceedings on scrutiny.