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Anno Regni
G E O R G I I I I.
R E G I S

Magnæ Britannia, Francia, & Hibernia,

DECIMO OCTAVO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Westminster*
the First Day of *December, Anno Dom. 1741*, in
the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign
Lord *GEORGE* the Second, by the Grace of
God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*,
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Prorogations to the Twenty
seventh Day of *November, 1744*, being the Fourth Session of this
present Parliament.



L O N D O N :

Printed by *Thomas Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent
Majesty; and by the Assigns of *Robert Baskett*. 1744.



Anno decimo octavo

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for giving a publick Reward to such Person or Persons, His Majesty's Subject or Subjects, as shall discover a North West Passage through *Hudson's Streights*, to the Western and Southern Ocean of *America*.



Whereas the discovering of Preamble.
a North West Passage
through Hudson's Streights,
to the Western American
Ocean, will be of great
Benefit and Advantage to
the Trade of this King-
dom: And whereas it
will be a great Encou-
ragement to Adventurers
to attempt the same, if
a Publick Reward was
given to such Person or Persons as shall make
a perfect

Reward of
20,000 l. to
the Owner of
the Vessel
discovering a
North West
Passage.

a perfect Discovery of the said Passage: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Ship or Vessel, Ships or Vessels, belonging to any His Majesty's Subjects, shall find out and sail through any Passage by Sea between Hudson's Bay and the Western and Southern Ocean of America, the Owner or Owners of such Ship or Ships, Vessel or Vessels, as aforesaid, so first finding out and sailing through the said Passage, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be intitled to receive, and shall receive, as a Reward for such Discovery, the Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds.

Commissioners
for the Discovery;

And, in order to ascertain who are the first Discoverers of the said Passage, and to whom the Reward hereby given does of Right belong; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain for the time being, the Lord President of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council for the time being, the Lord Privy Seal for the time being, the Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household for the time being, the Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household for the time being, the Lord High Treasurer, or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Treasurer of His Majesty's Exchequer for the time being, the Lord High Admiral, or First Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State for the time being, the Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons for the time being, the Chancellor and Under Treasurer of His Majesty's Exchequer for the time being, the First Commissioner for Trade and Plantations for the time being, the Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy for the time being, the Admirals of the Red, White, and Blue Squadrons for the time being, he, and they are hereby appointed

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Commissioners

Commissioners for the said Discovery; and are hereby authorized and impowered to examine upon Oath any Person or Persons produced by the Claimant or Claimants to such Reward (which Oath the said Commissioners, or any Three or more of them, are hereby impowered and required to administer) and the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, of which the Lord High Admiral, or the first Commissioner for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, shall be one, being fully satisfied, upon Examination and Proof, that such Passage by Sea is effectually discovered, and sailed through as aforesaid, are hereby authorized and required to grant a Certificate under their Hands and Seals, to such Person or Persons as they shall judge are intitled to the same; which Certificate shall be produced to the Lord High Treasurer, or any Three or more of the Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being; and the said Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds shall be paid to such Person or Persons as are named in the said Certificate, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, out of any of the Aids or Supplies which shall be granted in Parliament to His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, after the said Discovery shall be completed, and the said Certificate thereof produced as aforesaid.

impowered to examine the Claimants Witnesses;

and grant a Certificate to the Person entitled thereto.

And, as a farther Encouragement, and to promote the prosecuting of and finding out such Passage; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Persons whatsoever, being Subjects of His Majesty, and residing in any Place where the said Adventurers may come, in the Prosecution of the said Discovery, shall give the said Adventurers all Aid and Assistance requisite; and that the said Persons, being Subjects as aforesaid, shall no ways obstruct, molest, or refuse the said Adventurers reasonable Succour, in any Distress they may fall into, in the prosecuting such Discovery as aforesaid.

Adventurers to be assisted and succoured in Distress.

This Act not
to prejudice
the Company
of Adventurers
to Hudson's
Bay.

Provided always, That nothing in this Act
shall any ways extend, or be construed to take
away or prejudice any of the Estate, Rights, or
Privileges of or belonging to the Governour and
Company of Adventurers of England trading into
Hudson's Bay.

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F I N I S.
