REPRESENTATION

OF THE

LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL,

APPOINTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF

ALL MATTERS

RELATING TO

TRADE AND FOREIGN PLANTATIONS,

UPON THE PRESENT STATE OF

THE LAWS

FOR REGULATING THE

IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION

OF

CORN:

And submitting to HIS MAJESTY's Consideration some further Provisions, which are wanting to amend and improve the said Laws.

A NEW EDITION.

LONDON:

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PREFACE

TO THE

PRESENT EDITION.

IN the present state of this Country, when the prices of wheat and of all other sorts of grain are so high, the Public will naturally wish to see the representation made to the King, by the lords of the committee of His Majesty's most honourable privy council, on the 8th March 1790, as it contains the principles on which many of the regulations in the present corn laws are founded, as well as some account of former systems, and of the laws relating to them. This representation was printed in the year 1790, by order of both houses of parliament; but it is probable that many of the copies then delivered to the members, may have been lost or mislaid; it has on that account been thought proper to reprint it. A lapse of ten years since this representation was presented to the two houses of parliament, and the events which have happened during that interval, may have furnished reasons to justify many in not entertaining the same favourable sentiments of those principles, with which

they were at firſt received by the public, and which induced the legiſlature, after full conſideration, to adopt moſt of them: It may now perhaps be thought no longer ſafe to reſt ſo important a concern, as the trade in the moſt neceſſary article of life, ſolely on thoſe principles. Whatever may be the opinion of the public on this moſt intereſting and delicate ſubject, the preſent re-publication will be ſo far of uſe, that it will bring thoſe principles again under their view, and thereby enable every one to form a correct judgment concerning them. It may not however be improper to obſerve, that in this Repreſentation, the public were firſt informed by authority, that the quantity of wheat produced in the kingdom, was not then, and had not been for ſeveral preceding years, equal to the conſumption of its inhabitants *; and conſequently, that the price of it had for ſome time continued to advance, though in a former period, that is in the firſt fifty years at leaſt of the preſent century, the quantity of wheat produced in the kingdom, had been far more than equal, upon an average, to the conſumption of its inhabitants, ſo that the prices had then been generally low, and great quantities of it had been exported to foreign countries, and large ſums paid out of the public revenue, to encourage ſuch exportation.

25th October 1800.

Note. * *The period when the importations of wheat into this kingdom firſt began to exceed, on an average, the exportations of wheat from this kingdom, was between the years* 1765 *and* 1769, *probably in the year* 1767. *The importation of oats, into this kingdom, began to exceed the exportation of oats from this kingdom, at a much earlier period.*

PREFACE

TO THE

FIRST EDITION.

IN order to underſtand the better the following Repreſentation on the corn trade and corn laws of this country, it is proper to premiſe, that in a former Repreſentation to His Majeſty, preſented about the middle of laſt December, it was ſhewn, that the price of wheat, taken on an average from the ſeveral markets of England, was at that time fifty-two ſhillings per quarter—That the price of wheat, as taken from the market of Amſterdam, which is a free market for corn, and affords therefore the beſt criterion of the medium price of Europe, was, by the loweſt eſtimation, ten ſhillings higher per quarter—That the prices of corn in other foreign countries, were much higher than in ordinary years—That the old ſtock of wheat was nearly exhauſted in moſt parts, by the demands of the foregoing year—That bounties were given by the municipality of Paris, on wheat brought into the ſaid city; and that bounties were paid, as well by the government of France, as by the municipalities of many of the great towns ſituated upon the coaſt, on wheat imported therein—That in Spain, all duties on corn imported were taken off, and that bounties were given on wheat and Indian corn imported into that kingdom—That the export of wheat had been prohibited from ſeveral

of the northern countries, from whence great quantities of that article are usually drawn, for the supply of the southern countries of Europe—That, in expectation of a scarcity, many governments had formed magazines for the sustenance of their subjects; and that contracts had been made with merchants of England, for the delivery of American wheat at sixty-two and sixty-five shillings per quarter, and for the delivery of American flour at sixty shillings per sack, on its arrival in the Channel.

It was also shewn, that from a failure in the execution of an act passed in the last session of parliament, there was at that time no law in force, sufficient to prevent the exportation of corn, whatever the price thereof might be, or to permit the importation upon low duties, if it should be found necessary.

From a due consideration of all these circumstances, the privy council then advised his Majesty to issue an order in council for preventing the exportation, and allowing the importation, of several sorts of corn, until the sense of parliament could be taken on this subject, in order to insure to his Majesty's subjects a continuance of the advantage they then enjoyed, of being supplied with corn at a much cheaper rate than it could be obtained in most of the neighbouring countries, and thereby to execute and fulfil what the privy council conceived to be the real intentions of the legislature, for the benefit of the people of this kingdom.

As soon as the parliament met, they shewed their approbation of this measure, by passing a law for preventing the exportation, and allowing the importation, of corn, in the manner directed by the before-mentioned order in council, till the 29th of September next.

REPRESENTATION, &c.

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 8th of March 1790.

(L. S.) By the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council, appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to Trade and Foreign Plantations.

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE Committee of Your Majesty's most honourable privy council, appointed for the consideration of all matters relating to trade and foreign plantations, humbly offered to Your Majesty in a former representation their advice on such measures as, in their judgment, were necessary, in order to apply an immediate remedy to the evils likely to arise from the difficulties, which had occurred in the execution of the laws of this kingdom, made for regulating the exportation and importation of corn, and to preserve Your Majesty's subjects from being exposed to that distress for want of this indispensable article of subsistence, which has of late been severely felt in several neighbouring countries; but the committee having in their investigation of this subject been led to

consider the state of the corn laws, and the trade of corn in general, and finding that some further provisions are wanting to amend and improve the said laws, they presume to lay this Second Representation before Your Majesty, and therein to submit to Your Majesty's consideration their sentiments on such amendments and alterations in the subsisting laws, as appear to them to be expedient.

The committee thought this subject the more deserving their attention, as they find, by an account * laid before them, of the quantity of corn imported and exported during the last eighteen years, that this kingdom, which, in former times used to produce more corn than was necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants, has of late years been under the necessity of depending on the produce of foreign countries for a part of its supply.

Barley is the only article, of which this country produces more, at present, than it consumes. We had formerly a large and profitable trade in the export of corn;—upon an average of nineteen years, from 1746 to 1765, the corn exported from this country is supposed to have produced a net profit of not less than £.651,000 per annum;—but in the eighteen years from 1770 to 1788 †, by setting the value of the corn imported against that of the corn exported, and deducting the amount of the duties received thereon from the bounties paid during the same period, it will appear that this country has upon an average sustained a loss in this trade of £.291,000 per annum, which sum it has annu-

* *Vide Appendix, No. 1.* † *Vide Appendix, No. 1.*

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ally paid to foreign nations for the supply of its inhabitants.

The following Table will shew the quantity of each sort of corn exported annually from England, upon an average of 19 years, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive: and also the quantity of each sort of corn exported annually from England and Scotland, upon an average of 18 years, from 1770 to 1788 inclusive; with the bounty in each period paid thereon.

Vide Appendix, No. 2.	19 years average, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive, from England *.	18 years average, from 1770 to 1788 †, inclusive, from England & Scotland.
	Quarters.	Quarters.
Wheat and wheatmeal - - -	359,810	108,247
Barley and malt - - - - -	306,974	99,458
Oats and oatmeal - - - -	20,702	25,802
Rye - - - - - - - - -	47,677	6,041
Annual bounty paid thereon	£. 138,677. 3. 7¼	£. 32,968. 6. 4¾
Bounty paid on corn exported from Great Britain in 1788 - - - - - - -		£. 45,182. 12. 3¾

Note. * *The accounts in Scotland of imports and exports were not kept by the Commissioners of the Customs there before the year 1755, in such a manner as to enable the Committee to obtain an accurate account of the corn imported and exported to and from that part of the United Kingdom during the first of these periods.*

Note. † *An account of the quantity of the several sorts of corn exported and imported from and to Great Britain in the year ending the 5th January 1790, has not yet been obtained by the Committee, as the accounts from Scotland have not been hitherto transmitted.—But the bounty on corn exported from England only, in the course of this year, amounted to £. 76,551. 16 s. 1¼ d. which is considerably more than double the bounty paid on all corn exported from England and Scotland on an average of the eighteen preceding years, and proves how great a quantity of corn during the course of last year was carried out of the kingdom, before the prices of the several sorts exceeded the prices at or below which export is by law permitted.*

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The following Table will ſhew the quantity of each ſort of corn imported annually into England, upon an average of 19 years, from 1746 to 1765, incluſive: and alſo, the quantity of each ſort of corn imported annually into England and Scotland, upon an average of 18 years, from 1770 to 1788, incluſive.

Vide Appendix, No. 3.	19 years average, from 1746 to 1765, incluſive, into England.		18 years average, from 1770 to 1788, incluſive, into England and Scotland.
	Quarters.		Quarters.
Wheat* - - -	12,654	Wheat and flour	150,905
Barley - - -	1,500	Barley and malt	48,048
Oats and oatmeal	30,449	Oats and oatmeal	291,405
Rye - - - -	502	Rye - - - -	15,577
Beans and peaſe	None.	Beans and peaſe	31,683
Annual duties paid thereon	£. 1,569. 8. 4½	Annual duties paid thereon	£. 7,620. 8. 3½

Note to the preſent edition. * *No wheat-flour, or malt, were imported into England in the 19 years from 1746 to 1765, and in ſeveral of theſe years there was no importation into England of ſeveral of the before-mentioned ſorts of grain.*

In the firſt edition there was inſerted in this place an account of the corn exported and imported from and to Ireland for ten years, ending the 25th March 1789; but as this account throws no light on the queſtion, in its preſent ſtate, it is here omitted. For the ſame reaſon are omitted in the Appendix, two accounts relating to the trade of corn in Ireland.

The committee hope, that a change ſo extraordinary in a concern of ſo much importance, is only to be imputed to an increaſed population; to the numbers of horſes and other cattle, which we now breed and maintain more than formerly; and to that opulence which has generally diffuſed itſelf amongſt all ranks of men, from the extenſion of our trade and manufactures, and which has occaſioned an increaſed conſumption of all the neceſſaries of life;—for there can be no reaſon to ſuppoſe either that the agriculture of the country has of late declined, or that, for ſo long a continuance of years, the ſeaſons can have been uniformly unfavourable.

The committee are further impreſſed with the importance of this ſubject, and are the more induced to think that it requires immediate attention, as from accounts they have received of the produce and conſumption of corn in moſt European countries, they are inclined to believe, that in ordinary years the produce of corn in Europe is not more than equal to the conſumption of its inhabitants; and that whenever the crops fail in any degree, the deficiency can only be ſupplied from the harveſt of America.

The lords of the committee are of opinion, that the principles which are beſt adapted for the conduct and regulation of other trades, cannot in every reſpect be applied to this of corn: other trades in general produce only the comforts and conveniencies of life;—this has for its object an article that is indiſpenſably neceſſary for ſubſiſtence: If they at any time decline, ſome individuals may be affected in their fortunes, and the public can only ſuffer a temporary loſs and inconvenience;—but a miſtaken ſpeculation in the trade of corn may produce dearth—the conſequence of which will always be general diſtreſs, and ſometimes popular commotions: ſo that in the management of this trade, government ought ever to have in view, not only the proſperity of the trade itſelf, and the intereſts of thoſe concerned in it; but the ſubſiſtence of the people.

The beſt market for corn in every country is the home market; and the circulation of it within every kingdom ought to be free, ſo that the ſurplus of one part may ſupply the deficiencies of the other, and that the price throughout the whole country may be brought as near as poſſible to a level.

To facilitate the circulation of corn, this kingdom enjoys peculiar advantages, which ariſe from its ſituation as an iſland, from the number of its canals, and the excellence of its roads; and by theſe means the populous and manufacturing counties in ſome parts of the iſland can draw the neceſſary ſupplies from other parts, which are leſs populous, but more productive of corn.

In other countries magazines of corn are formed by their reſpective governments, or by the principal magiſtrates of great cities, as a reſource in times of ſcarcity. This country has no ſuch inſtitution—The ſtores of corn are here depoſited in the barns and ſtacks of wealthy farmers, and in the magazines of merchants and dealers in corn, who ought to be by no means reſtrained, but rather encouraged in laying up ſtores of this nature, as, after a deficient crop, they are thereby enabled to divide the inconvenience ariſing from it as equally as poſſible through every part of the year; and by checking improvident conſumption in the beginning of ſcarcity, prevent a famine, which might otherwiſe happen before the next harveſt. The inland trade of corn therefore ought to be perfectly free.—This freedom can never be abuſed—To ſuppoſe that there can be a monopoly of ſo bulky and periſhable a commodity diſperſed through ſo many hands over every part of the country, is an idle and vain apprehenſion. The ancient laws of this kingdom, which by a falſe policy reſtrained the inland trade of corn, have in general been repealed. The 15th Cha. II. ch. 7. which does not permit the buying corn to ſell again, and the laying it up in granaries, except when the ſeveral ſorts of corn are below certain prices therein mentioned, is the only

only law of this deſcription which will now be found in our ſtatute book, and ought certainly not to remain there any longer.

But to extend the freedom of this trade to an unreſtrained export of corn to foreign countries, would, in the opinion of the committee, be productive of the greateſt evils; ſuch export might, in a year of general ſcarcity, exhauſt the ſtock of any kingdom, and deprive its inhabitants of what is neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence, by ſending it for the ſupply of other nations. There is hardly a country in Europe, the government of which, in the courſe of laſt year, did not find it neceſſary to interpoſe either to retain its own ſtock wholly for the conſumption of its inhabitants, or at leaſt to prevent an unlimited exportation; and, it is ſingular to obſerve, what induſtry and artifice have been employed by the merchants, and even by the miniſters of many countries, to break through theſe reſtraints, and to draw ſupplies from their neighbours. The greateſt advocates for a free trade in corn with foreign countries, have always cited the practice of Hamburgh, Holland, and particularly of the town of Amſterdam, being free markets for corn, as a proof that no inconvenience would ariſe to the inhabitants of a country by allowing at all times perfect liberty in the import and export of corn: The ſenate of Hamburgh, ſenſible of the imperfection of ſuch a ſyſtem, have always kept a magazine well ſtored with every ſort of it, to provide for the conſumption of their own inhabitants, in caſes of emergency; and, in the laſt year, many towns of Holland thought it neceſſary to prohibit the export of corn from their own precinct and juriſdiction to other towns within the ſame province; and the free circulation of it was thereby prevented even in their own country; and the magiſtrates of Amſterdam, which is the greateſt corn market of Europe, though they kept their port open for the importation and exportation of corn, yet, being fearful that the prices would riſe ſo high as to occaſion diſtreſs to its inhabitants, collected and laid up in magazines,

magazines, at the public expence, great quantities of corn, and ſold it to the people at reduced prices. And, during the laſt autumn, if the laws of this country had not reſtrained the export of corn, and Your Majeſty had not providently interpoſed to carry the intention of the legiſlature, in this reſpect, into perfect execution, your Majeſty's people would have been deprived of the advantage they now enjoy, of purchaſing this neceſſary article of ſubſiſtence at a much cheaper rate than thoſe of any neighbouring nation.

It appears, therefore, that the principles on which our corn laws are founded are in general wiſe; the two objects they have in view are, firſt to ſecure a reaſonable price at all times to the farmer, and in the next place to prevent that price being at any time ſo high as to diſtreſs the poor and the manufacturer. With a view to the firſt of theſe objects, export is allowed, and even encouraged by a bounty, till the price of wheat arrives at 44*s.* per quarter; and the import of foreign wheat into this country is reſtrained by a high duty, till the price of wheat in the home market arrives at 48*s.* The ſame policy is obſerved with reſpect to other articles of corn.—It is a true obſervation, that no market will be plentifully ſupplied with corn, unleſs ſome liberty is given of diſpoſing to profit of the ſurplus, for which there may be no demand; without this liberty the farmer would endeavour ſo to contrive, as to produce no more corn than could be ſold in the home market at a reaſonable profit, and his ſpeculations would extend no further; the conſequence would be, that he would frequently produce leſs than the home market would demand, and ſcarcity muſt ſometimes enſue; for it has been found by experience, that a very ſmall deficiency of crop will raiſe the price in a very high degree.

It is right, therefore, to allow the export of corn, whenever it is ſold under a certain price;—it is not neceſſary for the committee to offer any thing in juſtification of that policy,

policy, which commenced at the revolution, of encouraging by bounty this exportation, and which the legiſlature has thought fit to continue to the preſent time. Whatever doubts may be entertained by ſome, of the wiſdom of this meaſure, it cannot ſurely be thought prudent to alter it at preſent; for it is a certain fact, that the agriculture of this country has progreſſively increaſed and flouriſhed from the time when this bounty was firſt granted; though it is true, that other cauſes have been aſſigned for this improvement—This bounty may be conſidered as a compenſation made to the farmer for the reſtraints impoſed on his trade, in order to enſure ſubſiſtence to the people: and it may well be doubted whether the exportation which is neceſſary to encourage tillage in a degree ſufficient for the home ſupply (as before ſtated) would take place if this bounty ſhould be withheld.—In all years, and particularly, in thoſe of reaſonable plenty, the price of corn is lower in the countries bordering on the Baltic, and in America, than it is in Great Britain.—In the North of Europe corn can be more cheaply raiſed, becauſe the value of land is leſs, and the price of labour is lower.—In America, the value of land is greatly leſs, and from the extent of their farms, they are able to reſort to new lands, or to ſubſtitute fallows in the place of manure, and can therefore raiſe corn without this additional expence; and theſe circumſtances more than compenſate the higher price of labour in that country.—Without the aid therefore of the bounty, the merchants of the countries before mentioned would be able to under-ſell our corn factors in foreign countries; and in conſequence thereof, the ſurplus corn of this kingdom would never find a vent, except in times of general ſcarcity on the Continent (as of late has been the caſe) and it is probable that in common years, when, in order to keep up the price at home, ſome ſale in the foreign market is moſt neceſſary, very little corn would be exported from Great Britain.

When the price of wheat is from 44*s.* to 48*s.* per quarter, neither the exportation of Britiſh wheat, nor the importation

importation of foreign on low duties, is allowed; from which it may be inferred, that it is the opinion of the legiſlature, that between 44*s.* and 48*s.* is the medium price at which wheat ought to be ſold in the markets of this country, for the encouragement of the farmer on one hand, and the comfortable ſubſiſtence of the people on the other. It has been remarked by attentive obſervers, that in manufacturing towns there is more regularity of conduct, and more productive induſtry, when corn is not at a price unuſually low; but the condition of the country labourer certainly requires, that the price of it ſhould be low, that he may be enabled by his wages to purchaſe what is neceſſary for his ſubſiſtence—As ſoon as the price of wheat paſſes 48*s.* the legiſlature have thought it their duty to attend to the neceſſities of the poor, and to encourage the importation of foreign wheat, by allowing it to be imported at very low duties.

The whole of this ſyſtem wiſely correſponds with thoſe principles by which the corn trade ought to be conducted. The only doubt that can be entertained upon it is, whether the export does not ſtop before the price is ſufficiently high for the encouragement of agriculture, and the intereſt of the farmer—It is ſingular that the price at which corn is prohibited to be exported is now lower than it was above a century ago, and that the price, at which foreign corn is permitted to be imported at reduced duties, is now alſo lower than it was above a century ago; and during this period the prices of the principal ſorts of corn, taken upon an average of a number of years, do not appear to have advanced in an equal degree with the prices of many other articles which are of general uſe, and even of ſome which are the produce of the farm; and there are thoſe who doubt whether this circumſtance has not contributed to make the quantity of corn produced not equal to the conſumption, as it is at preſent.

The policy of our laws has however produced an effect highly advantageous, both to the grower and conſumer of

of corn, by rendering the viciſſitudes of plenty and dearth leſs frequent than they were formerly, and by making the price of corn more ſteady and uniform.—The farmer may now at all times depend on a certain reaſonable price, and feels that his labour in cultivating his land will not be wholly unprofitable—On the other hand, the poor have no reaſon to apprehend, as in ancient times, the calamities of dearth and famine.

The committee having now traced the principles, by which in their opinion the corn trade ought to be regulated, and to which our corn laws appear in general to conform, they will proceed to conſider in what reſpects theſe laws are defective, and what amendments ought to be made to them, ſo as to make them fully correſpond with the principles before ſtated.

It appears from the proviſions of ancient ſtatutes, and particularly from the preamble of Stat. 15 Hen. VI. C. 2. that it was not lawful * to carry corn out of the realm without the licence of the king;—By this ſtatute permiſſion was firſt given to export ſeveral ſorts of corn out of the realm, whenever the price of each ſort was at or below the prices therein mentioned.

By ſubſequent ſtatutes the export of the different ſorts of corn was in like manner allowed, whenever the price of each ſort was at or below the prices mentioned in each ſtatute reſpectively.—The following table, N° 4, will ſhew what the prices were, at or below which corn was allowed to be exported at different periods, according to the monies of the times.

* *In Maddox's Hiſtory of the Exchequer, Ch. 14. Sec. 15, there is an account of ſeveral amerciaments for exporting corn without licence in very early times.*

N° 4. PRICES at or below

BY STATUTES,	Wheat.		Rye.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
15 Hen. VI. c. 2. - - - Per Qr	6	8	—	
1 and 2 Ph. and M. c. 5. - - -	6	8	4	—
1 Eliz. c. 11. - - - - - -	6	8	5	—
5 Eliz. c. 5. - - - - - - -	10	—	8	—
13 Eliz. c. 13. - - - - - -	When the prices was made by peace.			
35 Eliz. c. 7. - - - - - - -	20	—	13	4
1 Ja^s c. 25. - - - - - - -	26	8	15	—
21 Ja^s c. 28. - - - - - - -	32	—	20	—
3 Ch^s I. c. 4. - - - - - -	The same prices			
12 Chas II. c. 4. - - - - - -	40	—	24	—
15 Chas II. c. 7. - - - - - -	48	—	32	—
1 W^m and M. stat. 1. c. 12. - -	No custom, or			
11 and 12 W^m c. 20. - - - - -	The subsidy, and			
13 Geo. III. c. 43. - - - - -	44	—	28	—

Note. *The several sorts of corn so exported, during all this time, paia the duty of export, which varied according as the law stood in each period. By the act of tonnage and poundage, 12 Charles II. c. 4. the duty on corn exported was the same whatever the price might be; it was not however high, as corn of every sort was rated at a very low value in the book of rates.*

Note.

which Exportation was permitted.

Pease.		Beans.		Oats.		Barley.		Malt.		Beer or Big.		Buck Wheat	
s.	d	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.				
—		—		—		3	—						
—		—		—		3	—						
4	—	4	—	2	—	3	3	3	3				
8	—	8	—	—		6	8	6	8				

were so reasonable and moderate as that no prohibition the queen or council, or justices of assize, or of the

13	4	13	4	—		12	—	12	—				
15	—	15	—	—		14	—	14	—				
16	—	16	—	—		16	—	16	—				
as in the last act.													
24	—	24	—	16	—	20	—	20	—				
32	—	32	—	13	4	28	—	28	—	—		28	
any fee or reward, to be paid on exportation.													
all duties, to cease.													
28	—	28	—	14	—	22	—	—		22			
				Malt made of barley, beer, or big, to be governed by those grains respectively.									

Note. *The duties on export were taken off by 1st William and Mary c. 12. and by the 11 and 12 William, c. 20. A bounty was likewise given on several sorts of corn exported, by the before-mentioned act of 1st William and Mary, which bounty has been varied by several subsequent statutes. The following Table, No. 5, will shew all the variations made in the bounty on each sort of corn, and the prices according to which it was paid.*

N° 5.

N° 5. PRICES at and below which certain Bounties were given on Exportation.

By Statutes,		Wheat.	Rye.	Peafe.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Malt made of Barley.	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat
		s.	s.					s. d.	s. d.		
1ſt Wm & M. ſtat. 1. c. 12.	The price per quarter - -	48	32 —	—	—	—	—	24 —	24 —		
	Bounty - -	5	3 6	—	—	—	—	2 6	2 6		
						s.				s. d.	
5th Anne, c. 8.	The price per quarter -	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	24 —	
							s. d 2 6 from Scotland.		—	2 6 from Scotland.	
	Bounty - -	—	—	—	—	—					
5th Anne, c. 29.	The price per quarter -	on malt made of wheat -	—	—	—	—	The ſame from England as from Scotland.	—	—	The ſame from England as from Scotland.	
	Bounty - -	5									
13 Geo. III. c. 43.	The price per quarter - -	44	28	—	—	14	—	22 —	22 —	22 —	
	Bounty - -	5 and on all malt made of wheat.	3	—	—	2	2 6	2 6	2 6	2 6 and alſo on malt made of beer or big.	

It is extraordinary that no one of the before-mentioned ſtatutes, nor any ſtatute till 13th year of Your Majeſty's reign, c. 43, enacts any rule for aſcertaining the prices, according to which the export ſhould be allowed, or the bounty be paid, though ſome of them eſtabliſh regulations for aſcertaining the quantity of corn ſo exported, and the quantity on which the bounty was to be paid.

The officers of the cuſtoms, being left without any rule preſcribed by law, purſued a method of their own: They obliged the exporter, in making the entry outwards, to ſwear, that the prices of the corn ſo entered for exportation did not, on the laſt market day, exceed the prices at which export was to be allowed, or bounty to be paid; and ſometimes they obliged the exporter to produce a certificate to the ſame effect on the oath of ſome ſuppoſed credible witneſs—This practice was probably founded on the directions given in the 1ſt Wm and Mary, c. 12. for aſcertaining the quantity and quality of the corn ſo exported.

By the before-mentioned ſtatute of 13th year of Your Majeſty's reign, it was enacted, that in caſes of exportation from the ports of England, the prices of corn ſhould be aſcertained according to the methods directed by preceding acts of parliament, as well as by that act, for aſcertaining the prices of corn or grain in caſes of importation;

tion; and the bounty was to be paid according to prices ascertained in the same manner.—It is proper to observe, that the prices for regulating importation were, according to the 1st Jas II. ch. 19, ascertained only four times in each year—By the same act of 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, the prices of corn in Scotland, both in cases of exportation and importation, and for the payment of the bounty, were to be ascertained by returns made four times a year, from the sheriffs or stewards depute, or their deputies, on the oaths of two persons qualified in the manner in that act described.

This method of ascertaining the prices being found very inconvenient and detrimental to the export trade of corn, as the prices which were to govern the exportation and the payment of the bounty could be altered only every three months, though the real prices might in the mean time be very much increased or diminished, it was enacted in the next session, by statute of the 14th year of Your Majesty's reign, c. 64, that the prices of corn exported from Great Britain should be regulated and governed by the average prices, at which such corn should be respectively sold in the public market, at or near the port or place from whence such corn was intended to be exported, on the last market day preceding the shipping thereof; and that the respective bounties on each sort of corn should be paid according to such prices.

But even in this act no method was prescribed for ascertaining what these prices were, so that the officers of the customs were still obliged to have recourse to the method, that had before been adopted and practised by themselves—But this last-mentioned act, as far as relates to the port of London, and the ports of the counties of Kent and Essex, was repealed by stat. of 21st year of Your Majesty's Reign c. 50, and a new mode of ascertaining the prices in those ports was therein enacted; an officer created by that act, and called *inspector of returns of corn*, was directed to receive from the several factors of the Corn Exchange an account of the quantity of each sort of corn they had sold in the course of the preceding week, and of the prices, and the names of the purchasers; and from the prices at which the whole aggregate quantity of each

each sort of corn so respectively sold in the course of that week, he was to compute and form an average price of each sort of corn, and such price was to be taken as the average price during that week, and the import and export of each sort of corn, and the bounty payable thereon, was to be thereby regulated in the port of London, and in the ports of Kent and Essex.

In this state, which was certainly very imperfect with respect to all the ports of Great Britain, except those of London, Kent, and Essex, the law for ascertaining the prices of corn, as far as related to exportation and the payment of the bounty, continued till the passing of the act of last year.

As it appears by some ancient statutes not to have been lawful to carry corn out of the realm without the licence of the king, it may be collected from others that it was generally lawful to import Foreign corn into this kingdom; and from both these circumstances it may justly be inferred, that the legislature in ancient times was more solicitous to provide for the plentiful subsistence of the people, than to encourage tillage within the realm.

By statute 3d Edward IV. c. 7, several sorts of Foreign corn were for the first time prohibited to be imported, till the price of each exceeded the respective prices mentioned in the said statute.

This statute continued in force till 21st Jas I. when it was repealed, and the importation of Foreign corn was again generally permitted; but corn so imported was always subject to a duty, which varied according to the law in each period.

By 12 Chas II. c. 4. the importation of Foreign corn first began to be regulated in the manner that subsists at present, that is, by imposing high duties when the price of each sort of corn did not exceed certain prices, and low duties when it exceeded the said prices.

The following Table, N° 6, will shew the prices at which corn was at any time prohibited to be imported, and at what prices the high and low duties on importation respectively took place, and what was the amount of those high and low duties upon each sort of corn at each period respectively.

 N° 6.

N° 6. PRICES at or under

By Statutes,		Wheat.
3 Edw. IV. c. 2. - repealed by 21 Ja. 1.	- - - - - per Qua'	6s 8
13 Geo. III. c. 43. -	- - - - - per Boll	—

PRICES at which certain high or low

By Statutes.		Wheat.
12 Chas II. c. 4. - -	Not exceeding - per Qua'	44s —
	Duty - - -	40 —
	Exceeding the above prices,	
	Duty - - -	6 8
15 Chas II. c. 7. - -	Not exceeding - - - -	48 —
	Duty - - - -	5 4
	Exceeding the last-mentioned prices,	
22 Chas II. c. 13, -	Not exceeding - - - -	53 4
	Duty - - -	16 —
	Exceeding the above prices, but not exceeding - -	80 —
	Duty - - -	8 —
	Exceeding the last-mentioned prices,	
13 Geo. III. c. 43. -	At or above - - - -	48 —
	Duty - - - -	— 6d
	Do on wheat flour per cwt.	— 2
	Not exceeding the last-mentioned	
15 Geo. III. c. 1. -	- - - -	When barley is imported at one penny.
27 Geo. III. c. 13. - (Consolidating Act.)	Under - - - per qua'	48 —
	Duty - - -	24 3
	At or above.	
	Duty - - -	— 6

which Importation was prohibited.

Rye.	Peafe.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Malt.	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat.
4s —	—	—	—	—	3 —			
—	—	—	—	16 Into Scotland.				

Duties on Importation were to take place.

Rye.	Peafe.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Barley.	Malt	Beer or Big.	Buck Wheat.
36s —	—	28s —	—	—	28s —	28s —		
26 8	—	26 8	—	—	26 8	26 8		
5 —	—	5 —						
32 —	32 —	32 —	13 4	—	28 —	28 —	—	28 —
4 —	4 —	4 —	1 4	—	2 8	2 8	—	2 —
the low duties imposed by 12 Chas II. ch. 4.								
40 —	40 —	40 —	16 —	—	32 —	32 —	—	32 —
16 —	16 —	16 —	5 4	—	16 —	16 —	—	16 —
When rye, peafe, beans, oats, barley, malt, or buck wheat exceed thofe prices, then they are to pay a duty as before this act—further 5 per cent. was laid on French or pearl barley.								
the low duties imposed by 12 Chas II. ch. 4.								
32 —	32 —	32 —	16 —	—	24 —	—	4 —	
— 3	— 3	— 3	— 2	—	— 2	—	— 2	
prices, the high duties imposed by 12 Chas II. ch. 4.								
ley is imported at 2d duty, Indian corn or maife may be imported								
penny.								
32 —	32 —	32 —	16 —	—	24 —	—	24 —	
22 —	18 4	22 —	6 7	—	22 —	—	22 —	
— 3	— 3	— 3	— 2	—	— 2	—	— 2	

Till

Till the first year of James II. no rule had been enacted for ascertaining the prices, according to which the high or low duties on corn imported were to take place; but as it was then found by experience, that great quantities of corn had been imported, without paying the proper duties, it was enacted by statute 1 James II. ch. 19, That the justices, at their Michaelmas and Easter session, by the oaths of two or more persons, not being dealers, and by such other ways and means as to them should seem fit, should examine and determine the common market prices of middling English corn, as the same was commonly bought and sold in the counties where any foreign corn might be imported, and certify the same to the chief officer of the customs at the port where the importation might be, and the duty on foreign corn imported was to be paid according to such certificate; and the same method of ascertaining the prices was to be pursued by the lord mayor and aldermen, in the city of London, in the months of October and April; and by statute of sixth year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 17. they were to ascertain the prices in like manner in the months of January and July.

The justices in some counties having neglected to send their certificates at the Michaelmas session of 1728, gave occasion to passing statute 2 Geo. II. ch. 18, by which, in order to remedy the past neglect, the justices of those counties were authorized to settle and determine the prices at the next quarter session. And it was further directed, that, in all future cases of like neglect, the collector should be empowered to receive the duties on corn imported according to the lowest prices mentioned in stat. 22 Car. II. ch. 13.

But the mode of ascertaining the prices under stat. 1 James II. ch. 19. having been found, upon further experience, to be ineffectual, a new method was established; and it was enacted by stat. 5 Geo. II. ch. 12, that the justices in every county, where corn is imported, should at every quarter session give in charge to the grand jury to make enquiry and presentment upon their oaths of the common market prices of middling English corn, of the respective

respective sorts mentioned in stat. 22 Car. II. ch. 13; this presentment was to be certified by the justices to the chief officer of the ports where corn is imported, and the duties on foreign corn imported were to be paid according to the prices mentioned in such certificate.

The method however of ascertaining, in the port of London, the prices of corn, as directed by the stat. 1 James II. was not repealed by this act. By this statute all foreign corn once imported was forbid to be exported from any of the ports of England, or even carried coastwise from one port of England to another; but this restraint was not extended to the ports of Scotland.

The statute of the 13th year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 43, made no alteration in the method of ascertaining the prices for the purposes of importation in the ports of England, but left it as directed by former acts. But with respect to Scotland, it directed that the prices should be ascertained by the sheriffs and stewards depute, or their deputies, in the manner already mentioned.

By statute of 21st year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 50, a new method of ascertaining the prices in the port of London, and in the ports of Kent and Essex, for regulating the importation of corn, was enacted. It was the same as that which has already been described for regulating the exportation, and payment of the bounty.

In this state the law for ascertaining the prices of corn, for the purpose of regulating the importation thereof, continued till the passing of the act of last year. It was certainly much more perfect, than the mode for ascertaining the prices, that were to regulate the exportation and payment of the bounty; and the legislature appears never till last session to have directed its attention to the prevention of frauds in the exportation of British corn, or in the payment of bounty, in the same degree as to the prevention of frauds in the importation of Foreign corn.

There exists however in the laws of this country another method for ascertaining the prices of the several sorts of corn in this kingdom, though enacted for another purpose. By statute of the 10th year of Your Majesty's reign, ch. 39, intituled, "An act for registering the "prices

"prices at which corn is ſold in the ſeveral counties of "Great Britain, and the quantities exported and im-"ported;" the juſtices at the quarter ſeſſion for each county, riding, diviſion, or ſtewartry, held after the 29th of September in every year, are directed to order returns to be made weekly of the prices of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and beans, and of big in Scotland (peaſe are omitted) from ſuch and ſo many market towns as they ſhall think fit, not being leſs than two, nor more than ſix, in each county, and to appoint a proper perſon, being an inhabitant, for the purpoſe of making ſuch returns to an officer created by this act, who was to be appointed by the commiſſioners of the treaſury, and was to receive and publiſh them in manner hereafter mentioned. The meal weighers of the city of London are directed to make the like returns of corn ſold in the ſaid city. In caſe the juſtices neglected to appoint the perſons before mentioned, the lords of the treaſury were authorized to appoint them; and the perſons ſo appointed were to be paid a ſum not exceeding two ſhillings for each return, upon a certificate from the receiver, that ſuch retun had been properly made. And an abſtract of all theſe returns is directed to be publiſhed by ſuch receiver once a week in the London Gazette, and to be tranſmitted four times in every year to the clerk of the peace of each county, and to the lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London.

The committee have examined the receiver of corn returns, appointed under the act, and they find that the proviſions of this act have been completely executed in every part of England:—that the juſtices at their ſeſſions have regularly appointed the perſons who make the returns; and that the lords of the treaſury have been never under the neceſſity of exerciſing the authority veſted in them, in caſe of the neglect of the juſtices: that the returns are generally made from three to ſix markets of each county: that the perſons making the returns are ſatisfied with the allowance of two ſhillings for each return; and the receiver is of opinion that theſe returns in general are as carefully made as the preſcribed manner of making

making them will admit. The receiver alſo informed the committee, that from Scotland the returns, immediately after paſſing the act, were made pretty generally; but that the magiſtrates have by degrees ceaſed to execute the law, ſo that he has received of late no return from that part of the united kingdom, except from Inverary; and the reaſon, as he believes, is, that the magiſtrates conſider the execution of this act as an unneceſſary expence.

The committee have thought fit to ſtate the ſeveral regulations of this act, and the manner in which they have been executed, in order to ſhew that there exiſts a method of collecting the prices of the ſeveral ſorts of corn in the markets of this kingdom, which in England continues to be completely executed, and which was executed in Scotland for ſome time after paſſing the act, though this act was made for a different purpoſe than that of regulating the importation or exportation of corn, or the paymsnt of the bounties.—And it was to the averages, formed according to the directions of this act, that Your Majeſty found it neceſſary to reſort, when the act of laſt year failed in its execution, and when You were graciouſly pleaſed to make regulations for the importation and exportation of the different ſorts of corn by your late orders in council.

The committee will have occaſion alſo to refer to the regulations of this act, in the advice which they ſhall think in their duty to offer to Your Majeſty at the concluſion of this repreſentation.

The committee will proceed next to ſtate the regulations of the act of laſt year; and they will then conſider what additions and amendments ſhould be made to this act, and to the corn laws in general.

This act was made from a conviction that the proviſions of former laws for aſcertaining the prices of corn were very imperfect, and that great frauds had been committed under them. There can be no doubt of the exiſtence of theſe frauds, as has been ſhewn more fully in a former repreſentation on this ſubject, which the committee preſented to Your Majeſty.—The principal proviſions

visions in which this act differs from former laws are, that it divides England into districts, and the average prices taken in each district, in the manner therein directed, are to regulate and govern the importation and exportation of the several sorts of corn, and the payment of the bounty thereon, in every such district. The city of London, and the counties of Kent, Essex, and Sussex, form one district, and the rest of England is divided into eleven other districts, each consisting at least of two counties, except that the county of Norfolk is made a district of itself.

In the district which includes London, and the counties of Kent, Essex, and Sussex, the average prices are to be taken from the market of London, according to a new and improved method.

Instead of requiring the oath of only two corn factors, chosen by lot, to the truth of their returns, all the corn factors within the city of London, and the suburbs thereof, are to swear that they will make true returns; and any person exercising the business of a corn factor, without having taken this oath, and obtained a certificate thereof from the Lord Mayor, is to forfeit £. 50. A weekly average is to be made up of these returns in the manner directed by the former act, and the certificate of such weekly average sent to the collector was not to regulate the exportation of the several sorts of corn, and the bounty payable thereon, for the week to which these returns refer, as directed by the said act, but it is to regulate the same from the time that such certificate is respectively received by the collector of each port, to the time that a certificate of a new average shall be received by him; and for the purpose of regulating the importation of Foreign corn, an average is to be made up, not of the returns of thirteen weeks, as directed by the former law, but of the six weeks preceding every quarter session, except in the case of oats, the importation of which is still to be regulated by an average made from the returns of thirteen weeks; and a certificate of such averages, sent to the collector of each of the ports, is to govern and regulate the importation from the receipt thereof to the time that he receives another certificate.

In

In the other eleven districts the justices at the Michaelmas quarter session are to nominate certain principal market towns, not being more than twelve nor less than eight in each district, from which returns of the prices of corn are to be sent.—There are some exceptions made in the act with respect to the number of market towns in particular districts, from a consideration of local circumstances.—The justices are to appoint also, from among the chief constables, or such other persons as to them shall seem proper (not being dealers in corn, &c.) one or more persons residing in or near such market towns, to collect weekly an account of the quantities and prices of the corn sold therein, from those who buy the same;—these persons are to be called *inspectors of the prices of corn returns*, and they are directed to return in every week, to the receiver of corn returns in London, the weekly prices and quantities of corn bought in each market town.—Each inspector is to take an oath to make true returns to the receiver of corn returns, according to the accounts delivered to him by the several buyers, and to use his best endeavours to procure true accounts.—The receiver of corn returns is required to make up a weekly average, and also an average of the six weeks preceding every quarter session, of the returns received by him from each district, according to the manner practised in the city of London, as before described.—He is to transmit a certificate of each weekly average, and also a certificate of each quarterly average, collected from the returns of each district, to the ports of such district respectively, and such weekly certificate is to regulate and govern the exportation of corn, and the bounty payable thereon; and such quarterly certificate is to regulate and govern the importation of Foreign corn, from the receipt of the same by each collector to the time that he shall receive a new certificate.

This act contains many good regulations for ascertaining the prices of corn, so as to prevent many of the frauds committed in the importation and exportation of it, and in obtaining the bounties.—But the several clauses of the act were very imperfectly drawn, so that, at the time that

that the committee laid before Your Majesty their first representation, this act had failed in its execution in every district, except in that, which is composed of the port of London, and the ports of the counties of Kent, Essex, and Sussex;—since that time five districts have made returns conformable to the act, but in the six others the act has not been carried hitherto into execution.

Your Majesty's attorney and solicitor general, in their letter of the 18th December last, annexed to the former representation of this committee to Your Majesty, gave it as their opinion, "That in those districts where market towns have not been selected and nominated, or inspectors appointed by the justices at the last Michaelmas quarter session, they cannot now be appointed, as no authority is given by the act for that purpose." And as the magistrates in several districts have omitted to exercise the powers given to them in these respects, the act, as applicable to the whole kingdom, ceases to be operative, and must therefore, as a general regulation, be considered as existing no longer. All the powers given by former laws to this end are by this act repealed; so that it is become absolutely necessary to pass a new law. And with this view it may be proper to consider, what parts of the act of last year, or of the acts that were thereby repealed, it may be fit to revive; what parts of existing laws it may be fit to continue; and what new provisions it may be right to propose to the legislature for their judgment and decision.

The committee therefore humbly offer the following advice:

1st. That England continue to be divided into districts, according to the plan of the act of last session; and that Scotland be divided into districts in like manner.

The committee think, that according to the true principles of the corn trade, as before stated, one general average ought to be formed, and taken from the prices of the markets of the whole kingdom, to regulate and govern importation and exportation, and the payment of the bounty, in all the ports thereof.

Such

Such a regulation would tend to equalize the prices over all the country, to secure to those parts which may be in distress, a supply from the redundancy of more plentiful districts, and to preserve in the kingdom a stock, at all times, sufficient for the subsistence of its inhabitants.—It would also remove the principal objection urged against the payment of the bounty, as the bounty would not in in that case operate, as it does now, to force corn out of parts of the kingdom for the supply of foreign nations, when other parts of the kingdom are in want of it; for as long as so large a bounty can be obtained by exporting corn to foreign countries, it can hardly be supposed, that corn will be carried coastwise (in which case no bounty is paid) for the relief of any other district at a considerable distance.—But as it is probable that the landholders, at least in some counties, will not approve of this plan, and as they now appear to be satisfied with having the kingdom divided into districts, and making the average price of each district the rule for governing importation and exportation in all the ports of such district, so much attention is due to their opinion and wishes, that it would not be advisable to make any alterations therein, contrary to their inclination.

This plan of districts is certainly greatly preferable, and much less liable to fraud, than that of making the price of each port the rule to govern importation and exportation at such port.—The committee do not think fit to offer any opinion on the manner, in which the districts were formed in the act of last year, as this arrangement has so lately met with the approbation of parliament.

But, in order to make the system complete, it is necessary, that Scotland should be divided in like manner into districts, and that importation and exportation there should no longer be regulated according to the defective and discordant system of former laws, and that in a business of common concern every part of the united kingdom should be made subject to the same regulations.—It

was

was ſhewn by the committee, in their firſt repreſentation to Your Majeſty, that juſt before the late orders in council were iſſued, wheat was exported from Scotland to foreign parts upon bounty, while the price of that article was ſo high in England, as to open the ports there for the importation of foreign wheat upon the low duties.

2d. That whenever the export of any ſort of corn is ſtopped in any one diſtrict, becauſe the price thereof is above the export price, corn of the ſame ſort ſhould not be allowed to be carried from thence coaſtwiſe to any other diſtrict, the ports of which are open for the exportation thereof.

This regulation will tend greatly to prevent fraud; and as the price of any ſort of corn in a diſtrict, the ports of which are open for exportation, muſt be lower than in a diſtrict, the ports of which are ſhut, it is evident that it cannot be carried for conſumption to a diſtrict, the ports of which are open for exportation.

3d. That the act of 10th Geo. III. ch. 39, for regiſtering the prices of corn, ſo far as relates to the appointment of inſpectors, be repealed, and that the regiſtry of corn publiſhed weekly in the Gazette, be formed upon the averages taken, according to the prices returned by the inſpectors appointed under the act of laſt year.

Though theſe averages were directed by the two ſeveral acts before mentioned to be taken for different purpoſes, there can be no reaſon why they ſhould not be taken in the ſame way, and by the ſame perſons.—The prices of the ſeveral ſorts of corn, as taken in theſe two ways, will frequently be different, as is ſhewn in paper N° 4 in the Appendix.—The prices, as taken in one way, are publiſhed in the Gazette, to enable the merchant to ſpeculate; but when he brings his corn to port, in order to import or export it, he will often find that the prices, as taken in the other way, are not the ſame as thoſe, on which he ſpeculated,

lated, and he is thereby deceived.—The manner of forming theſe averages in the act of laſt year is certainly the moſt accurate, as is clearly ſhewn in paper N° 4, before mentioned.

If the two modes of collecting the prices ſhould be allowed at the ſame time to ſubſiſt, the counties will be put to the expence of two claſſes of inſpectors; and one objection made to the act of laſt year is, the expence incurred by the payment of the inſpectors.—The ſaving ariſing from the abolition of one claſs of inſpectors will nearly defray half the charge incurred by the new ſyſtem.

4th. That a duty of one half-penny per laſt be paid on all Britiſh corn imported coaſtwiſe, and one penny per laſt on all corn imported from foreign countries into all the ports of Great Britain, as is now paid in the port of London; and that the money ariſing from theſe duties be made a fund for the payment of the inſpectors, and defraying the other expences incurred by this act; and that the corn returns ſent by the poſt be not ſubject to the payment of poſtage.

The object of this propoſition requires no explanation.

5th. That the inſpectors be paid not by ſalaries, as directed by the act of laſt year, but by a certain allowance for each return, certified to have been properly made, by the receiver of corn returns, according to the act of the 10th year of Your Majeſty's reign, ch. 39.

It is obvious that the object of this regulation is, to ſecure the execution of the act.

6th. That in caſe the returns from any diſtrict ſhall not be completely made, according to the directions of the act, the importation and exportation of

every

every ſort of corn in that diſtrict, ſhall be governed by the average price of the reſt of the kingdom.

It is obvious alſo, that this regulation tends to ſecure the execution of the act, and to prevent in every ſuch diſtrict, any improper importation or exportation.

7th. That a power be lodged in Your Majeſty, with the advice of Your privy council, during the prorogation of parliament, to prohibit generally the exportation from this kingdom of any ſort of corn, and in like manner to permit generally the importation, on the low duties, of any ſort of Foreign corn, whenever the average price thereof, taken from the *returns of the whole kingdom*, is higher than the price at or above which Foreign corn is allowed by law to be imported, if Your Majeſty in Your wiſdom for the public benefit ſhall ſo think fit *.

A diſcretionary power of this ſort appears to have been veſted in the crown by a great number of acts of parliament †, from Richard II. to the preſent time; the acts by which this power was granted are cited in the margin.—It has been found by repeated experience, that the veſting ſuch a power in the crown is neceſſary for the welfare of the people.—Government poſſeſſes at all times the beſt means of diſcerning the general exigencies of the kingdom, and the ſtate of crops and markets in foreign countries, and there can be no juſt reaſon to ſuſpect, that it will at any time be influenced by any bad motive to exerciſe this power improperly.

* Note to the preſent edition.—*Parliament did not adopt this 7th reſolution, but temporary laws have frequently paſſed ſince the year 1790, veſting in His Majeſty a diſcretionary power of this ſort for a limited time.*

† *Stat.* 17 *Rich. II. c.* 7. 15 *Hen. VI. c.* 2. 1 & 2 *Phil. & Ma. c.* 5. 13 *Eliz. c.* 13. 35 *Eliz. c.* 7. 8 *Ann. c.* 2. 14 *Geo. II. c.* 3. 15 *Geo. II. c.* 35. 30 *Geo. II. c.* 1.

8th. That

8th. That the collector of the cuſtoms at every port in Great Britain, do tranſmit weekly to the receiver of corn returns, an account of the quantity of the ſeveral ſorts of corn ſhipped in ſuch port to be carried coaſtwiſe, with the name of the ſhip or veſſel, the name of the maſter, and the port or place in Great Britain, to which the corn was intended to be carried; and alſo an account of the quantities of the ſeveral ſorts of corn brought coaſtwiſe into each reſpective port, with the name of the ſhip or veſſel, the name of the maſter, and the name of the port or place from whence it is brought; and that the ſaid receiver do, at the end of every three months, tranſmit to the commiſſioners of His Majeſty's cuſtoms in England and Scotland, an account, to be formed and made up in ſuch manner as the ſaid commiſſioners ſhall approve, of the quantity of the ſeveral ſorts of corn ſhipped to be carried coaſtwiſe from each port, or brought coaſtwiſe into each port reſpectively.

There can be no doubt that in the courſe of the laſt ſix months, conſiderable quantities of corn have been exported to foreign countries, which were ſhipped under the pretence of carrying the ſame coaſtwiſe.

The commiſſioners of Your Majeſty's cuſtoms have the merit of uſing every endeavour to prevent this evil, and there are already many wiſe proviſions in the laws of this country to make the commiſſion of this fraud as difficult as poſſible. A bond is given for landing the corn ſo ſhipped to be carried coaſtwiſe at ſome ſpecified port, or at ſome other port or place in Great Britain, and no where elſe—there can be no doubt that the regulation now propoſed will be an additional check to this practice, for by bringing into one view an account of the whole of the corn ſo carried coaſtwiſe, and by comparing the quantity ſhipped with the quantity landed, every fraudulent attempt may be detected.

9th. That

9th. That the warehouſes in which Foreign corn imported is to be lodged, under the joint lock of the King and the proprietor, according to the ſtatute of the 13th of Your Majeſty's reign, ch. 43, be provided at the public expence; and that the officers of the cuſtoms, whoſe duty it is to attend thoſe warehouſes, be paid by the public, as is now practiſed with reſpect to the warehouſing of tobacco.

There is no regulation in our ſyſtem of the corn laws, that is more beneficial and more deſerves therefore to be extended and improved, than thoſe proviſions which permit the warehouſing of Foreign corn—this regulation tends to ſecure to us a very important branch of commerce—it enables our merchants, who receive corn from the Americans in payment of their debts, to lodge it here, either for the home or foreign market, as occaſion may require—it is alſo * the only method of forming magazines of a public nature in this country, againſt times of ſcarcity and diſtreſs, without prejudice to the Britiſh farmer and grower of corn—if the legiſlature have thought it prudent to pay for the warehouſes in which tobacco is depoſited, and the charges of the officers who are appointed to attend theſe warehouſes, it is reaſonable that the public revenue ſhould defray the like expence in ſupport of a trade which may in time prove more valuable than that of tobacco, and may become neceſſary, in certain contingencies, for the ſubſiſtence of Your Majeſty's ſubjects; and from what has been already experienced in the caſe of tobacco, the committee have reaſon to believe that this expence will be no conſiderable burthen to the revenue.

* Note to the preſent edition.—*The object of this regulation was in a great meaſure defeated, by Clauſe 19, in the Act paſſed on this occaſion, which requires, that corn warehouſed when the high duty ſubſiſts, if taken out for home conſumption, even when the price at the place where it is intended to be conſumed is ſo riſen, that it may be imported there on the low duty, ſhall pay in addition to ſuch low duty, a further duty, which in the caſe of wheat is 2 s. 6 d. per quarter: and it can hardly be expected that corn ſhould be imported to be warehouſed, on ſuch terms.*

10th. That

10th. That Foreign corn imported and not warehouſed be not allowed again to be exported.

When the high duties on importation ſubſiſt, Foreign corn is never imported, except to be warehouſed; when the low duties commence, in conſequence of ſcarcity of corn in this country, Foreign corn has frequently been imported; and in conſequence of the right which the proprietors have heretofore had of re-exporting it, frauds have been committed in exporting Britiſh corn, which by law is not then exportable.—The legiſlature, convinced that frauds of this nature were committed, did by the 5th Geo. II. ch. 12, prohibit the carrying Foreign corn, once imported, to the open ſea, in order to be landed in any other port of England.

If the public pay the expence of warehouſes, as above propoſed, the merchant can have little reaſon to complain that he is obliged to lodge his corn in a warehouſe provided by the crown, under the care of the public officer.

11th. That corn ſo warehouſed be permitted to be taken out, to be ground by the importer or proprietor, on condition that he give bond, not ſubject to any ſtamp duty, in double the value of the ſaid corn, that he will export from the port where it was warehouſed, within two calendar months from the time of taking out the ſaid corn, a quantity of flour equal to the corn ſo taken out, reckoning the quantity of wheat meal, or other ground corn, for every buſhel of ſuch corn unground, according to the proportion as it is now ſettled by law; or that he will pay the duty chargeable on the ſaid corn at the time that it was taken out of the warehouſe.—And that no importer or proprietor ſhall be entitled to the receipt of any bounty on any corn or flour exported by him, until after he has ſettled his account of the corn ſo taken out of the warehouſe, and diſcharged his bond.

This

This regulation will encourage in this country the manufacturing of foreign corn into flour—It will alſo facilitate the trade, as many foreign countries may at times be deſirous of obtaining from this market flour inſtead of corn.—In conſequence of the reſtrictions which accompany this permiſſion, no conſiderable fraud can eaſily be committed. By ſtatutes the 15 and 16 Geo. II. prohibited Eaſt India goods, being warehouſed, are now allowed to be taken out to be dyed or glazed, on giving bond to bring them back in a limited time to be exported.

There is another propoſition of more importance, which the committee ſubmit with greater diffidence than any of the preceding; and which they only venture to ſuggeſt, in order that it may be taken into conſideration.

12th. That wheat be permitted to be exported, but without bounty, when the price thereof is between 44 *s.* and 46 *s.* * and other corn when the prices thereof ſhall be in like proportion; and that wheat be allowed to be imported into this kingdom, from Your Majeſty's kingdom of Ireland only, on the low duties, when the price thereof is at or above 46 *s.* and other ſorts of corn when the prices ſhall be in like proportion.

The two regulations contained in this propoſition, to take place whenever the parliament of Ireland ſhall

* Note to the preſent edition.—*It will be ſeen by the preceding Table, No. 4, that Britiſh wheat was not permitted to be exported by the laws then in force, till the price of it had fallen to 44 s. per quarter. And by Table No. 5, it will be ſeen, that Britiſh wheat, when ſo permitted to be exported, at the price beforementioned, was entitled to the bounty. The legiſlature adopted this 12th propoſition, and by the law founded on it, Britiſh wheat was permitted to be exported when the price of it was below 46 s. per quarter, though it continued to be not entitled to the bounty, till it was below 44 s. per quarter. The exportation of all other articles of Britiſh grain was regulated in the new act upon the ſame principle. See ſtat. 31 Geo. III. ch. 30. Table* (B.) *This regulation, by encouraging exportation, was thought to be in favour of agriculture.*

ſhall make a regulation with reſpect to Britiſh corn, ſimilar to the laſt in favour of Iriſh corn.

The committee are inclined to think, that theſe regulations are both beneficial in themſelves; but they have coupled them together, as they think that the one is calculated to counteract any evil which may be ſuppoſed to ariſe from the other.—The great corn counties of Great Britain are in general on the eaſt ſide of the iſland, and there corn is in general cheapeſt. The capital is fortunately ſituated in the midſt of them: but many of the great manufacturing counties and towns are on the oppoſite ſide of the iſland, and there corn is generally dearest.—The firſt of theſe regulations will be beneficial to the corn counties on the eaſt ſide of the iſland; the laſt of theſe regulations will be beneficial to the populous and manufacturing counties and towns on the weſt ſide of the iſland, which are more conveniently ſituated for importation from Ireland; and both regulations, taken together, will contribute to bring the price of corn in the different parts of the kingdom more to a level.

It is not probable that any great quantity of corn will be exported without bounty, unleſs when corn is much dearer in foreign countries than here, a contingency which may ſometimes, but does not often happen; and there is little reaſon to apprehend that the importation of Iriſh corn into the weſtern counties of this kingdom will diſcourage the agriculture of them, as much leſs corn is grown there than is conſumed by the inhabitants, and the price of it is conſequently high.

It was the opinion of the commiſſioners of the cuſtoms, in a report preſented to the lords of the treaſury in 1774, that the export of corn ſhould be allowed to continue, when the price of corn is ſomething higher than that, at which the bounty ceaſes to be paid; and ſome of the beſt judges on this ſubject have expreſſed the ſame ſentiment*.

There

* Note to the preſent edition.—*In addition to theſe twelve propoſitions, the legiſlature thought fit in the bill then brought in to raiſe what*

There are ſeveral other propoſitions for the amendment of the corn laws of leſs importance than thoſe before ſtated, with which the committee do not think it neceſſary to trouble Your Majeſty; but if it ſhould be thought fit that any of Your ſervants ſhould propoſe a bill to parliament for improving theſe laws, the committee will be ready to ſuggeſt them.

As the corn laws ought of all others to be generally known and underſtood, the committee think, that the ſubſiſting regulations, and ſuch as may now be adopted, ſhould be brought into as narrow a compaſs as poſſible, and that the act of the 13th of Your Majeſty's reign, ch. 43, and the act now to be propoſed, ſhould comprehend

what is called the importing price, that is the price of wheat and other ſorts of grain, taken according to the price of grain, of the ſame ſort, the produce of this kingdom, at or above which, Foreign grain of thoſe ſeveral ſorts ſhould be reſpectively permitted from thenceforth to be imported into this kingdom. The object of this laſt propoſition was, by ſecuring to the Britiſh farmer a ſufficient profit in the ſale of his wheat and other grain, to encourage agriculture, and to promote inclosures, and thereby to bring into tillage a great quantity of the waſte lands of the kingdom: It was alſo hoped, that by this encouragement the produce of wheat in the kingdom might be made equal, or more nearly ſo, than it had been of late, to the conſumption of its inhabitants. How far this alteration in the ſyſtem of our corn laws has anſwered the ends of promoting inclosures, and of making the produce of wheat in this kingdom equal to the conſumption of its inhabitants, the reader will ſee by two accounts, inſerted in the Appendix of the preſent edition. [*No.* 5 *and* 6.]

By the laws then in force, Foreign wheat had hitherto been permitted to be imported at the low duty of 6 *d. per quarter, when Britiſh wheat was at or above* 48 *s. per quarter.—By the new law, Foreign wheat was not permitted to be imported at the low duty of* 6 *d. per quarter, till Britiſh wheat was at or above* 54 *s. per quarter, ſo that the import price at this very low duty was raiſed* 6 *s. per quarter.—It was thought however, right, upon the ſame principles, which had been adopted in the* 12*th propoſition, with reſpect to exportation of wheat, to make the importation of Foreign wheat take place by degrees; and it was therefore enacted, that when Britiſh wheat was at or above* 50*s. but under* 54*s. per quarter, Foreign wheat ſhould be permitted to be imported on paying a duty of* 2 *s.* 6 *d. per quarter. The importation of all other articles of grain, and of oatmeal, was regulated in the new act upon the ſame principle. See ſtat.* 31. *Geo. III. ch.* 30. *Table E.*

hend all the regulations that are allowed to ſubſiſt; or perhaps, that even theſe two acts ſhould be conſolidated.

The committee are decidedly of opinion, that one permanent ſyſtem ſhould now be eſtabliſhed, ſo that the grower of corn may know how to direct his induſtry and his ſpeculations, and be ſure that no temporary meaſure will intervene, to deprive him of the fruit of them:—The corn trade is in itſelf ſubject, from the viciſſitudes of ſeaſons, and other circumſtances, to greater fluctuation than any other; it ought not to be expoſed to the additional uncertainty ariſing from frequent alteration of laws, and changes of ſyſtem.

In forming theſe regulations, the lords of the committee have endeavoured equally to provide for the proſperity of the grower of corn, and the neceſſities of the conſumer.—The intereſts of the grower and conſumer are ſuppoſed by ſome to be at variance: To reconcile them as much as poſſible, is the end which every wiſe government ſhould endeavour to attain.—The intereſt of the conſumer is entitled to the firſt conſideration, ſo far as to preſerve him, in every poſſible contingency, from ſcarcity and diſtreſs.—And as diſtreſs for want of this neceſſary article of ſubſiſtence cannot long exiſt in any country without expoſing it to thoſe commotions which frequently happen in times of dearth, it is not likely that the grower of corn would enjoy in ſafety the fruits of his induſtry, unleſs due attention is paid to this firſt and capital object;—but this point being once ſecured, the intereſts of the grower ſhould in the next place occupy the particular attention of the legiſlature. The production of corn is the firſt and moſt important occupation of the ſubjects of every country, and on its ſucceſs reſts the main ſupport and proſperity of every other trade. For the ſake of the conſumer therefore, the moſt liberal encouragement and protection ſhould be given to thoſe employed in it; for without offering proper incitements to their induſtry, plenty can never be procured: For theſe reaſons it will be found perhaps, on due conſideration, that the intereſts

interests of the grower and consumer, well understood, are less at variance, than at first they may appear.—In the advice, which the committee have thought it their duty to offer to Your Majesty, they have aimed at discovering the point of union, at which these interests meet; and they humbly refer to the judgment of Your Majesty, how far they have accomplished the object they had in view.

APPENDIX:

APPENDIX:

CONTAINING,

No. 1. An Account of the quantities of Corn and Grain exported from, and imported into, England and Scotland, for 18 years; &c.

No. 2. An Account of the quantity of Corn exported for 19 years, from 1746 to 1765 inclusive; &c.

No. 3. An Account of the quantity of each sort of Corn imported into England, from 1746 to 1765 inclusive; &c.

No. 4. How Returns of Corn are made from the markets of Leicester and Manchester.

No. 5. An Account of the several sorts of Grain exported and imported from and to Great Britain, for eight years; &c.

No. 6. An Account of the number of Bills for Inclosure that passed the Legislature in each year, from 1780 to 1799 inclusive; &c.

An Account of the quantities of corn and grain exported from, and imported into, the bounties and drawbacks paid, and the duties received, thereon;

	WHEAT and FLOUR.		BARLEY and MALT.		OATS and OATMEAL.	
	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.
	Quarters. per Qr.	Quarters.	Quarters. per Qr.	Quarters.	Quarters. per Qr.	Quarters.
1771 - - Price of the Year -	10,089 Wheat, 47 s. 2 d	2,510 - -	34,198 Barley, 25 s. 8 d.	228 - -	35,233 Oats, 16 s. 8 d.	212,327 - -
1772 - - Price of the Year -	6,959 Wheat, 50 s. 8 d.	25,474 - -	14,031 Barley, 25 s. 4 d	3,068 - -	23,599 Oats, 16 s. 2 d.	106,820 - -
1773 - - Price of the Year -	7,637 Wheat - 51 s.	56,857 - -	2,475 Barley, 28 s. 4 d	63,916 - -	18,777 Oats, 17 s. 2 d.	329,454 - -
1774 - - Price of the Year -	15,928 Wheat, 52 s. 8 d.	289,149 - -	2,911 Barley, 28 s. 6 d.	171,508 - -	16,433 Oats, 17 s. 10 d	399,499 - -
1775 - - Price of the Year -	91,037 Wheat, 48 s. 4 d.	560,988 - -	51,414 Barley - 26 s.	139,451 - -	26,485 Oats, 16 s. 6 d.	384,942 - -
1776 - - Price of the Year -	210,664 Wheat, 38 s. 2 d	20,578 - -	136,114 Barley, 20 s. 2 d.	8,499 - -	34,987 Oats - - 15 s.	378,566 - -
1777 - - Price of the Year -	87,686 Wheat, 45 s. 6 d.	233,323 - -	142,725 Barley, 20 s. 6 d.	7,981 - -	36,614 Oats, 15 s. 8 d.	366,446 - -
1778 - - Price of the Year -	141,070 Wheat, - 42 s.	106,394 - -	103,930 Barley, 22 s. 8 d.	42,714 - -	56,543 Oats, 15 s. 2 d.	201,170 - -
1779 - - Price of the Year -	222,261 Wheat, 33 s. 8 d.	5,039 - -	85,777 Barley, 19 s. 6 d	7,085 - -	22,286 Oats - - 14 s.	348,511 - -
1780 - - Price of the Year -	224,059 Wheat, 35 s. 8 d.	3,915 - -	191,563 Barley - 17 s.	352 - -	27,023 Oats, 12 s. 10 d	195,224 - -
1781 - - Price of the Year -	103,021 Wheat, 44 s. 8 d.	159,866 - -	150,468 Barley, 17 s. 2 d	56 - -	41,717 Oats, 13 s. 8 d.	109,446 - -
1782 - - Price of the Year -	145,152 Wheat, 47 s. 10 d.	80,695 - -	127,744 Barley, 22 s. 6 d.	13,592 - -	23,317 Oats, 15 s. 2 d.	38,562 - -
1783 - - Price of the Year -	51,943 Wheat, 52 s. 8 d.	584,183 - -	54,065 Barley, 30 s. 4 d	144,926 - -	11,826 Oats, 19 s. 10 d.	228,942 - -
1784 - - Price of the Year -	89,288 Wheat, 48 s. 10 d.	216,947 - -	66,889 Barley, 27 s. 10 d	77,182 - -	13,511 Oats, 18 s. 4 d.	266,998 - -
1785 - - Price of the Year -	132,685 Wheat, 41 s. 10 d	110,863 - -	166,448 Barley - 24 s.	67,212 - -	25,273 Oats, 17 s. 2 d.	274,089 - -
1786 - - Price of the Year -	205,466 Wheat, 38 s 10 d	51,463 - -	111,598 Barley, 24 s. 4 d.	62,374 - -	19,293 Oats - 18 s.	478,473 - -
1787 - - Price of the Year -	120,536 Wheat, 41 s. 2 d.	59,339 - -	135,089 Barley, 22 s. 8 d.	43,244 - -	17,098 Oats, 16 s. 8 d.	512,004 - -
1788 - - Price of the Year -	82,971 Wheat - 45 s.	148,710 - -	212,811 Barley - 22 s.	11,479 - -	14,418 Oats, 15 s. 8 d.	413,827 - -
18 Years.	1,948,452	2,716,293 1,948,452	1,790,250 864,867	864,867 - -	464,433 - - - -	5,245,300 464,433
Balance Imported Balance Exported	- - - - - - - -	767,841 - -	- - - - 925,383	- - - -	- - - - - - - -	4,780,867 - -

The price of the grain being fairly considered, both on importation and exportation,

		WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.	RYE.	BEANS.
The average price of the above 18 years -	per Qr.	44 s. 9 d	23 s. 7 d.	16 s. 2 d.	29 s. 8 d.	28 s. 10 d.
The finest and coarsest sorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows; viz. - - - - - - - -	per Qr.	4 s.	2 s.	2 s.	2 s.	4 s.

No. 1.

England and Scotland, for 18 years, from 5th January 1770 to 5th January 1789, with together with the average price of corn in England, under each year.

RYE.		BEANS and PEASE.		PAID ON EXPORTATION.		Received on Importation.
Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Bounties.	Drawbacks.	Duties.
Quarters. per Qr.	Quarters.	Quarters. per Qr.	Quarters.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
- - - - Rye, 34 s. 4 d.	2,179 - -	17,053 Beans, 28 s. 6 d	131	6,170 7 6	- - - -	13,717 11 —¾
- - - - Rye, 36 s. 8 d.	4,799 - -	17,096 Beans - 30 s.	490	- - - - -	- - - - -	3,766 1 10¼
- - - - Rye, 33 s. 4 d.	9,255 - -	15,181 Beans - 33 s.	61,116	- - - - -	- - - - -	Duty-free.
2,260 Rye, 34 s. 4 d.	41,427 - -	13,567 Beans, 31 s. 2 d.	24,591	6,023 3 10½	- - - -	13,715 15 11¼
2,722 Rye, 32 s. 10 d.	33,574 - -	19,349 Beans, 28 s. 8 d.	44,452	7,849 10 11¼	1,798 16 8	19,797 19 6¾
10,999 Rye, 26 s. 10 d.	3,415 - -	56,037 Beans, 26 s. 6 d.	38,843	52,248 — 9½	786 8 —	3,688 18 —
946 Rye - 28 s.	18,454 - -	47,156 Beans, 28 s. 6 d.	63,829	45,666 16 5½	102 1 10	8,836 8 6½
1,706 Rye, 28 s. 4 d.	9,327 - -	37,675 Beans, 27 s. 8 d.	57,933	43,806 7 9	224 8 6	4,904 9 4
3,199 Rye, 23 s. 4 d	1,693 - -	44,593 Beans, 24 s. 2 d.	43,745	54,506 2 6½	97 1 2	2,989 16 9¼
6,305 Rye, 22 s. 2 d	- - - -	22,941 Beans, 22 s. 2 d.	25,125	77,715 17 —¼	29 17 1	1,127 11 11½
2,701 Rye, 26 s. 10 d.	10,743 - -	19,344 Beans - 23 s.	17,753	32,270 14 7¾	46 9 2	4,722 11 —¾
4,003 Rye, 28 s. 10 d.	- - - -	26,128 Beans - 26 s.	8,558	47,914 7 4½	55 7 1	2,349 17 1
3,365 Rye, 35 s. 8 d.	81,295 - -	12,960 Beans, 34 s. 10 d.	31,614	13,357 4 8½	461 11 3	20,609 13 5
6,731 Rye, 32 s. 2 d	24,779 - -	10,976 Beans, 32 s. 2 d.	45,816	23,620 4 6½	255 3 5	9,929 10 8
13,163 Rye - 28 s.	28,761 - -	15,904 Beans, 30 s. 8 d.	16,813	26,314 5 10¼	207 1 6	7,448 17 2
6,736 Rye, 27 s. 2 d.	3,643 - -	16,309 Beans, 33 s. 2 d	35,709	53,804 — 4¾	79 19 4	6,270 11 6
12,683 Rye, 27 s. 8 d.	7,054 - -	18,260 Beans, 31 s. 10 d	42,884	56,979 18 9¼	9 5 11	6,625 19 9½
31,220 Rye, 27 s. 8 d.	- - - -	15,135 Beans, 27 s. 2 d.	10,902	45,182 12 3¾	- - - -	6,665 14 10
108,739 - - - -	280,398 108,739	425,664 - - - -	570,304 425,664	593,429 15 5¾ 4,153 10 11	4,153 10 11	137,167 8 6½
- - - - - - - -	171,659 - -	- - - - - - - -	144,640 - -	597,583 6 4¾ 137,167 8 6½		
				460,415 17 10¼ 4,776,000 — —		
				5,236,415 17 10¼		

Balance paid in bounties, &c. - -
the balance paid in the 18 years amounts to - - -

Total paid for grain and bounties, &c. - £.
or £. 291,000 per annum.

And the great exportation trade entirely lost, which, from 1746 to 1765, produced a net gain of £. 651,000 per annum. (See SMITH's Corn Tracts, fo. 136.)

Exports and Imports, Extracted from the Custom House Books.

Prices of the 18 years, Extracted from the Corn Register established by Act of 10th Geo. III.

JNO JAMES CATHERWOOD.

		WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
The average prices of the 19 years (from 1746 to 1765) are collected from the best authority that could be obtained -	per Qr.	32. 3.	17. 8.	14. 0.

Appendix, No. 2.

An ACCOUNT of the quantity of corn exported for nineteen years, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive, with the bounty paid thereon; distinguishing each year, and the several sorts of corn.—N. B. This account is for England.

	Barley.	Malt.	Oatmeal.	Rye.	Wheat and Wheat-meal.	Oats.	Bounties paid.
	Qrs. B.	Qrs. B.	Qrs B.	Qrs B.	Qrs B.	Qrs B.	£. s. d.
1747 - -	103,140 2	361,289 3	2,122 4	92,718 3	266,906 7	12,010 2	141,123 1 10
1748 - -	73,857 0	349,363 0	3,768 4	103,891 4	543,387 5	15,813 1	202,637 14 11
1749 - -	52,621 3	355,469 5	1,281 2	106,312 4	629,049 0	12,605 7	228,566 8 1
1750 - -	224,500 7	330,754 2	4,283 4	99,049 3	947,602 1	10,554 2	262,583 — 2½
1751 - -	32,698 0	256,547 4	2,476 2	71,048 4	661,416 4	8,459 1	154,904 17 4¾
1752 - -	106,331 3	287,578 6	1,590 1	57,847 2	429,279 4	9,666 3	186,218 7 —½
1753 - -	67,049 0	274,424 7	7,012 1	24,835 7	299,608 7	11,107 2	222,508 8 6¼
1754 - -	47,776 3	321,995 0	2,330 2	42,915 1	356,270 1	20,228 1	143,412 7 2
1755 - -	32,836 0	341,568 6	1,112 2	43,441 7	237,459 2	7,779 5	166,134 7 4¾
1756 - -	26,938 5	236,925 6	2,310 4	29,968 7	101,936 4	8,499 5	109,228 1 8½
1757 - -	7,094 7	56,164 2	4,417 6	907 1	11,226 0	12,117 0	22,558 16 9¼
1758 - -	691 0	10,728 1	1,831 4	—	9,233 6	7,932 4	3,752 6 10½
1759 - -	22,862 4	166,079 0	3,134 6	41,480 2	226,426 0	6,566 5	53,802 9 2¼
1760 - -	34,592 4	224,195 0	2,388 4	52,766 4	390,710 4	12,299 5	118,247 4 5¾
1761 - -	97,897 1	279,051 5	2,839 6	57,571 1	440,746 2	14,683 0	153,558 4 1¾
1762 - -	130,873 3	254,429 5	1,368 4	28,410 2	294,500 0	145,025 7	129,210 2 6¼
1763 - -	38,390 1	165,494 6	1,664 4	12,933 7	427,074 3	10,844 1	152,879 13 2¼
1764 - -	9,218 6	223,220 5	1,101 0	27,690 1	396,537 5	8,436 5	149,607 2 7¼
1765 - -	19,631 5	208,235 3	2,047 6	12,083 7	167,030 0	9,633 5	33,933 14 8½

N. B. The comptroller general cannot carry an account of the bounties actually paid further back than the year 1747—but it appears, by an account of the bounties payable since the commencement of the present century, that the greatest bounty was paid in the year 1750.

THOMAS IRVING,
Inspector General.

Inspector General's Office,
Custom house, London, 25 Feb. 1790.

Appendix, No. 3.

An ACCOUNT of the quantity of each sort of corn imported into England, from 1746 to 1765, inclusive; distinguishing each year, with the amount of duties paid thereon, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Barley.	Beans.	Oats.	Oatmeal.	Peafe.	Rye.	Wheat.	Wheat Flour.	Total Duties.
	Qrs. Bls.						Qrs. Bls.		
1747 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1748 - -	14 4	—	—	—	—	—	385 0	—	24 11 6
1749 - -	40 0	—	Qrs. Bls.	—	—	—	382 0	—	25 5 10
1750 - -	—	—	20 3	—	—	—	279 5	—	12 18 9
1751 - -	—	—	2,291 1	Qrs. Bls.	—	—	3 0	—	57 9 3
1752 - -	— 2	—	250 0	10 0	—	—	—	—	6 10 2
1753 - -	—	—	33 3	2 4	—	—	—	—	17 9
1754 - -	—	—	52,421 7	—	—	—	201 0	—	1,323 13 —
1755 - -	—	—	1,591 2	292 0	—	Qrs. Bls.	—	—	40 3 —
1756 - -	4 6	—	41,390 0	5,280 4	—	1,695 0	5 0	—	1,230 16 1
1757 - -	5,779 1	—	7,460 2	298 3	—	7,861 7	130,343 2	—	8,839 17 8
1758 - -	9,752 2	—	12,276 2	1,563 7	—	—	19,039 7	—	1,881 5 10
1759 - -	42 4	—	321 4	13 2	—	—	82 1	—	14 19 8
1760 - -	—	—	—	3 6	—	—	—	—	— 1 10
1761 - -	—	—	21 0	—	—	—	—	—	— 10 6
1762 - -	942 3	—	16,570 1	829 6	—	—	56 2	—	471 17 4
1763 - -	3,227 7	—	217,637 5	836 5	—	—	8 1	—	5,576 13 1
1764 - -	5,110 2	—	122,477 3	11,892 3	—	—	1 1	—	3,540 5 8
1765 - -	3,597 0	—	82,205 4	541 6	—	—	89,642 5	—	6,771 2 6

THOMAS IRVING,
Inspector General.

Inspector General's Office,
Custom house, London, 1 March 1790.

The inspector general begs leave to acquaint their lordships, that the rate of the duties upon corn depends upon a variety of circumstances, but more particularly upon the current prices at the time of importation, which prices cannot now be ascertained with any degree of accuracy during the period for which the above account is required. The inspector general has consulted some of the best informed officers in the long room, and they are of opinion that the importation generally took place under the low duties; he has therefore computed the quantities according to those rates.

Appendix, No. 4.

1ſt. WOULD the laſt-mentioned method of making the returns, according to the directions of the corn act paſſed laſt ſeſſion, embarraſs the buſineſs, or make it ſo much more difficult in the execution, that the returns might not be ſo regularly made, or that the perſons making them would in conſequence of any additional trouble be diſſatisfied with the allowance now made them?

In anſwering the above queſtion, it will, I conceive, be proper to ſtate the manner in which returns are made under the act of the 10th Geo. III. and alſo thoſe made purſuant to the act of the laſt ſeſſions.

By the firſt-mentioned act, the perſons who make returns, receive a ſum not exceeding two ſhillings for each. They collect the prices by enquiry among the dealers on market days; and when aſcertained, they make up their returns in the following manner; viz.

County of Leiceſter. Leiceſter. Saturday, February 6th, 1790.

A RETURN of the prices of corn from this market.

	Price by the cuſtomary meaſure.	Average.	Price by the ſtandard Wincheſter buſhel of 8 gallons.
	£. s d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Wheat per quarter, from - -	2 18 6	2 12 9	— 6 $4\frac{3}{4}$
to	2 7 —		

Note.
The quarter is 8 buſhels, the buſhel containing 8 gallons and 2 pints.

The price of the other ſorts of grain is given in like manner.

From the mode of collecting theſe prices, it is not likely that the inſpectors can obtain them ſo accurately as could be wiſhed, not being authorized to demand any account from the dealers, and the dealers not being obliged to render them any.

The method above ſtated, of giving the average, is not a true one. For if a greater quantity of wheat was ſold at £. 2. 18 *s.* 6 *d.* than at £. 2. 7 *s.* the average would be more than £. 2. 12 *s.* 9 *d.*; and if

if a leſs quantity was ſold at the former than at the latter price, the average could not be ſo much as £. 2. 12 *s.* 9 *d.* It is therefore evident, that unleſs the quantity is known, and the coſt of it, the *true average price* cannot be aſcertained; of courſe the returns made under the act of 10th Geo. III. are not ſo accurate as thoſe made purſuant to the late act, which enacts, That the buyers of corn for ſale ſhall be ſworn to deliver every week, to the inſpector of the market at which they buy, a true account of the quantities they purchaſe, and the coſt thereof.

When the inſpector has received ſuch accounts, which, at ſome places, are very numerous, he enters them in a book, from which he makes his return to the receiver of corn returns, as under, and then tranſmits a duplicate of it to the ſeveral collectors of cuſtoms within his diſtrict.

County of Lancaſter. Manchester, Saturday, February 6th, 1790.

A RETURN of the quantities and prices of corn and grain from this market, for one week, ended this day.

	Quantities, cuſtomary meaſure.	Price by the quarter.	Amount of each parcel at the ſeveral rates.	The aggregate quantity, Wincheſter meaſure.	The average price per quarter, Wincheſter meaſure.	The average price per buſhel, Wincheſter meaſure.
	Qu^r. Buſhel.	s. d.	£. s. d.	Qu^r Buſhel.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Wheat by the quarter, Wincheſter meaſure.	4 4	58 —	13 1 —			
	51 $4\frac{1}{2}$	55 4	142 13 $1\frac{1}{2}$			
	8 $4\frac{3}{4}$	54 6	23 8 4			
	93 $3\frac{1}{4}$	54 4	253 15 $-\frac{3}{4}$			
	32 $3\frac{1}{4}$	53 11	87 13 $5\frac{1}{2}$			
	38 $5\frac{1}{4}$	53 8	103 14 $6\frac{1}{2}$			
	7 —	53 5	18 13 11			
	17 $2\frac{1}{2}$	52 11	45 16 1			
	25 1	52 8	66 3 3			
	— $5\frac{1}{2}$	51 3	1 15 $2\frac{3}{4}$			
	2 $6\frac{1}{4}$	42 8	5 18 8			
	282 $-\frac{1}{4}$	—	762 12 8	282 $-\frac{1}{4}$	2 14 $-\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{44}{47}$	— 6 $9\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{29}{47}$

If the average of the above was taken according to the uſual method, under the act of 10th Geo. III. by giving the medium of the higheſt and loweſt price thus, wheat from 58 *s.* to 42 *s.* 8 *d.* the average price per quarter would be only £. 2. 10 *s.* $4\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* inſtead of £. 2. 14 *s.* $0\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*

From what has been before ſtated, it is manifeſt, that the duty of the inſpectors under the act of 10th Geo. III. is conſiderably leſs than the

the duty of the inſpectors under the late act, and that the allowance made to the former would be deemed very inadequate to the trouble of the latter.

2d. Can you recommend any method of making theſe returns, which will render them as accurate as thoſe directed by the act of laſt year, and yet not put the perſons, who are to make theſe returns, under too great difficulties in making them?

I can think of no method better calculated for obtaining true returns of the prices of corn and grain, than that directed by the act of laſt ſeſſion.

JNO JAS CATHERWOOD,
Receiver of corn returns.

17th February 1790.

Appendix, No. 5.

An ACCOUNT of the ſeveral ſorts of grain, exported and imported from and to Great Britain, for eight years, previous to the commencement of the new corn law [31 Geo. III. ch. 30.] and for eight years ſubſequent to its commencement; divided into periods of four years, with the averages thereof.

	Wheat and Flour.		Barley and malt.		Oats and oatmeal.		Rye.		Peaſe and beans.	
Years.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1784	89,288	216,947	66,889	77,182	13,511	266,998	6,731	24,779	10,976	45,816
85	132,685	110,863	166,448	67,212	25,273	274,089	13,163	28,761	15,904	16,813
86	205,466	51,463	111,598	62,374	19,293	478,473	6,736	3,643	16,309	35,709
87	120,536	59,339	135,089	43,244	17,098	512,004	12,683	7,054	18,260	42,884
Total	547,975	438,612	480,024	250,012	75,175	1,531,564	39,313	64,237	61,449	141,222
Average	136,994	109,653	120,006	62,503	18,794	382,891	9,828	16,059	15,362	35,305
1788	82,971	148,710	212,811	11,479	14,418	413,827	31,220	—	15,135	10,902
89	140,014	112,656	345,685	11,128	33,283	437,594	40,151	14,845	29,644	391
1790	30,892	222,557	50,966	29,718	14,290	786,546	47	21,682	17,576	43,094
91	70,626	469,056	41,590	61,134	16,408	836,736	3,528	56,378	13,707	14,726
Total	324,503	952,979	651,052	113,459	78,489	2,474,703	74,946	92,905	76,062	69,113
Average	81,126	238,245	162,763	28,365	19,622	618,676	18,736	23,226	19,015	17,278
1792	300,805	22,786	47,541	118,526	24,628	1,008,750	16,151	13,027	17,285	43,254
93	78,789	500,572	3,447	147,169	17,380	722,527	512	55,592	14,352	48,273
94	152,202	328,446	9,296	128,568	14,436	862,979	1,920	24,472	10,800	130,612
95	16,920	318,104	6,416	18,071	5,988	460,378	277	24,039	14,550	36,071
Total	548,716	1,169 908	66,700	412,334	62,432	3,054,634	18,860	117,130	56,987	258,210
Average	137,179	292,477	16,675	103,083	15,608	763,65	4,715	29,282	14,247	64,552
1796	21,809	889,003	13,099	40,032	10,845	801,373	122	164,453	10,725	67,917
97	51,470	462,579	13,089	64,198	20,040	609,120	108	8,258	11,300	35,212
98	55,409	396,941	15,075	116,484	25,037	773,995	680	6,925	19,507	34,010
99	37,397	466,208	41,386	19,537	19,280	529,540	40	22,051	11,818	13,550
Total	166,085	2,214,731	82,649	240,251	75,202	2,714,028	950	201,687	53,350	150,689
Average	41,521	553,683	20,662	60,063	18,800	678,507	237	50,422	13,337	37,672

Appendix, No. 6.

An ACCOUNT of the number of bills, for Inclosure and Drainage, that passed the legislature, in each year, from 1780 to 1799 inclusive, with the averages thereof; in periods of four years.

	No.	Average.
1780	37	
1781	22	
1782	15	
1783	18	
		23
1784	16	
1785	23	
1786	24	
1787	24	
		22
1788	35	
1789	36	
1790	28	
1791	42	
		35
1792	43	
1793	63	
1794	78	
1795	82	
		66
1796	78	
1797	91	
1798	53	
1799	80	
		75

TWO GRAND IMPERIAL TOPOGRAPHICAL

M A P S

OF THE

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ON FORTY-EIGHT LARGE SHEETS OF GRAND EAGLE PAPER.

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