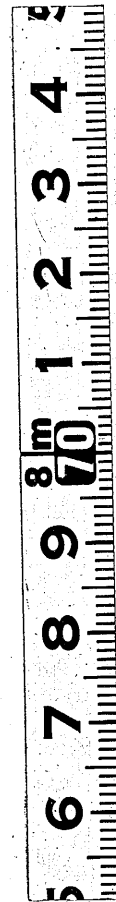


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A *n*  
SHORT, EASY *and* EFFECTUAL

M E T H O D

To prevent the

RUNNING of WOOL, &c.

FROM

GREAT-BRITAIN

AND

I R E L A N D

TO

FOREIGN PARTS;

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of PARLIAMENT.

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By ANTHONY SYMPSON.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for the Author. M.DCC.XLI.

[ iii ]

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# P R E F A C E

T O

## W O O L S C H E M E .

**T**HE frequent Applications to Parliament for Remedies to prevent the Running of Wool, from *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, to Foreign Parts; and the Benefits that must accrue to the Subjects of *England* thereby, are too notorious to need the Repetition,

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FOR

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nor need I mention the Number of Schemes propos'd to effect this Cure, my Intention being only to offer my own, with humble and great Submission, to the Consideration of Parliament, whose Wisdom will ever determine in favour of such Methods, as will be deem'd most effectual.

My own differs greatly from all other Schemes I have yet met with, both in the Way and Manner of executing it; tho' in the Year 1734, I deliver'd to an Honourable Member of the House of Commons, a Scheme (modelled in 1731) to the same Effect, as to Warehouses in *England*; but as no Provision was made in that Scheme, relating to *Ireland*,

[ v ]

*Ireland*, 'twas then objected to as imperfect. I have here not only subjoin'd the same Method in *Ireland*, but put both in a Way so easy to the Subject, that no Hardships can possibly be complain'd of. The needy Farmer, upon bringing in his Wool, may be supplied with Money for six Months, at common Interest, till he can dispose of it to his Satisfaction: And the Wool will be as safe in the Warehouse as in his own keeping; nor attended with more Expence, then to carry that, or his Grain, to a common Market, at the same Distance.

The first Expence, indeed, of erecting or purchasing fit Warehouses, to Answer this great Design

[ vi ]

sign must be considerable ; but after that is finished and compleated, the Annual Expences will be incredibly small, compared with the vast Charge that must attend a General Register thro' *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* : Nor will such Universal Register, in my humble Opinion, be necessary ; nor can be more effectual now, then in past Ages, when it has always failed. If due Care be taken to strip the Coast fifteen or twenty Miles, nor to suffer any Wool to pass Coast-ways, but under Permits ; and that to be strictly accounted for. I humbly apprehend it would go a great way towards curing the Evil complained of, and then the Inland Parts of both Kingdoms may be left with-  
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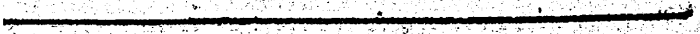
out Danger free and open, which will give great Tranquility and Ease to the Minds of the People,

As to the Duty proposed to support this Scheme, tho' it may possibly raise 3 or 400,000 *l.* a Year, yet this Duty will hardly be felt by the Consumer, after the Wool is manufactured, and will be less Burthenfome on the poor and lower Ranks of People, then those on Soap or Candles, so grievously and universally complained of, and which Duties 'tis humbly presumed may by the Savings and Surplusage of this Fund be totally discharged.

The Scheme here humbly presented, has been lately laid before  
fore

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fore the Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Board of Trade, where it hath attended their Lordships Approbation.



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A  
S C H E M E  
O R  
M E T H O D

*Humbly proposed by ANTHONY SYMPSON, to the Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Board of Trade, &c. To prevent the clandestine Running of WOOL from England and Ireland, &c. into foreign Parts to the great Prejudice of our Woollen-Manufacturies:*

**I**T is first humbly proposed, that Warehouses in *Essex, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Lincolnshire,* and such other Countries as may be thought proper, fifteen or twenty Miles from the Sea Coast, and five Miles Distance from each other, be  
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either purchased or erected for lodging and depositing all Wool that shall grow or be found, between the said Warehouses and Sea Coast; and as well for Safety as Conveniency, Market Towns should have the preference.

That all Wool growing, or found between such Warehouses and Sea Coast, be Register'd in every Parish, on or before of through *Great Britain*. And that all Sheep Owners be obliged, under a Penalty of the full Value of their Sheep, to give three Days Notice before Sheering, to the Collector of the King's Tax for the said Parish, of the Time and Place of Sheering such his Sheep, and that such Collector be obliged likewise, under a Penalty to attend in Person, or appoint some fit Person in his Place to take an Account of the Number of Fleeces, and Weight of the Wool, with the Name of the Proprietor of such Wool, and the Account so taken, to be sworn before a Magistrate, and sent to the nearest Warehouse, to be there Entered and Registered, and the Collector to be paid at the Warehouse Twenty Shillings for Trouble and Attendance in the Affair. And the like  
Accounts

[ 3 ]

Accounts to be taken Weekly or Monthly, by the said Collectors from the Butchers, as to Number of Sheep and Lambs by him killed, from Time to Time, and to whom such Sheep or Lambs Skins were sold, and the Buyers of such Skins to Account for the Wool of such Sheep or Lambs; and such Account sworn to likewise, and sent to the nearest Warehouse, to be there Registered and accounted for, and the Collector to be allowed a Salary for his Trouble.

That all Proprietors of such Wool be obliged at the time of Sheering, or within fourteen Days after to send or carry such Wool into the said Warehouse, where the Account by the Collector was delivered, to be there Lodged and Registered, and a Receipt to be given for the same, and half the Value of such Wool, to be advanced and lent at *5 l. per Cent.* till such Wool is sold (if desired.)

That a Monthly Market be established at each Warehouse, for Sale of the Wool, till the whole so deposited is disposed of, but none to be delivered without a Permit (Gratis) nor if sent Coast Ways to any  
B 2 Buyer,

[ 4 ]

Buyer, without producing a Certificate of his Name, Trade; and Place of Abode, Signed by two Magistrates of or near the Parish where he resides, and Death or Transportation for Life, to forge such Certificate.

That no Wool Stapler, nor any other Dealer in Wool, between the Warehouses and Sea Coast be suffered to fetch a second Quantity of Wool from any Warehouse, till he or she produces an Account of the last Parcel, and such Account to be verified on Oath, before, and witnessed by a Magistrate (the Oath to be administered, *Gratis*) which Account shall set forth, each Parcel sold, either in Wool, Worsted, or Yarne, or any other Spinning in Wool, the Time when sold, and Quantity, the Persons Name, Trade, and Place of Abode, to whom sold, and such Accounts to be left, and filed at the Warehouse.

That all Manufacturers be obliged likewise, under a Penalty, between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, to bring in their Accounts Quarterly, upon Oath, to the same Warehouse where the Wool was purchased, setting forth, in said Account of  
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whom bought, and Time when, and in what manner used and manufactured; there to be compared and examined with the Wool-Staplers Account, by which it will appear, whether the Wool so purchased by the Wool Staplers, &c. hath been fairly worked up and manufactured, or clandestinely disposed of, and will be such a Check on both, that no Wool can be secretly disposed of without Discovery.

That a Supervisor, two Chief Clerks, and four Assistants (to pack and load the Wool) be appointed under proper Salaries to each Warehouse, one of the Assistants to watch and guard every Night against any Attempt or Surprise, and the Clerks, and other Assistants, to have Lodgings and Apartments in the said Warehouse, as a Security to the same, and such Clerks to give Security for the Discharge of their Trust.

The Clerks of each Warehouse, to make up twice a Year fair Accounts, to be examined by the Supervisor, and sent to the Commissioners of or General Registers and Accomptants Office, in London, to be there audited and passed —  
By

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By thus stripping the Coast, and tracing the Wool from the Sheeps Back, thro' all the Hands of the Manufacturers and Dealers in Wool, and leaving no Wool between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, but what must be strictly accounted for. It is apprehended 'twill put it out of the Power of every Clandestine Trader, to send our Wool out of the Kingdom.

All Wool, either carried or found between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, after the Time above-mentioned, without a Permit, to be seized; and the same with Horses and Carriages forfeited; one Half to the Informer, the other towards the Charge of Management; and also the Person or Persons taken therewith upon full Conviction, to forfeit all Real and Personal Estate, and Transported for Life.

That all Wool Staplers and Manufacturers of Wool (Servants excepted) or any other Dealer in Wool, Yarn, &c. for Sale between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, be obliged, under a Penalty, to Register their Name, Trade, and Place of Abode, at the Warehouse nearest to the

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the Place of their Residence. — By this Method, all the Dealers in Wool, between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, will be Registered and publickly known.

That all Tide-Waiters, and other Officers belonging to the Customs, be authorized and directed to watch and guard all navigable Rivers, Creeks, and Places, where Wool may be Run, and to be allowed one Half of the Value of the Seizure, and the other Moiety to the Charge of Management; and 'tis humbly presumed, that the executing this Part of the Scheme will require little or no additional Expence, it being already their Duty to attend and watch all navigable Rivers, &c. to prevent the Running of other Goods.

And 'tis further humbly proposed towards the effectually establishing and supporting this Scheme, that a Fund not exceeding 50,000 *l.* be raised by Subscription at 5 *per Cent.* and taken in at the Bank of *England*, and applied towards Erecting, Purchasing or Renting fit Warehouses to Lodge and Register such Wool, and to defray and answer all Salaries and Expences relating to the same; And likewise for



[ 8 ]

for advancing and lending to all Farmers; &c. that desire it, upon bringing in their Wool, half the Value of such Wool at 5 *per Cent.* to be repaid with Interest, at the time of Sale. This will be both an Encouragement and Service to many Farmers till their Wool can be disposed of to the best Advantage, and may be done with Safety, as there will be always a double Value of the Money lent remaining in the Warehouses, That no one Person be admitted to subscribe less than 100*l.* nor more than 1000*l.* nor take in their Money under five Years, and six Months Notice.

And as it will be necessary to constantly supply the Warehouses with such ready Money as they may have Occasion for to lend the Farmers upon their Wool, till the same is sold, and to pay Salaries, &c. 'Tis further proposed, that the General Receiver of the Land-Tax in such Counties, where the Warehouses are erected, be authorized to advance 200*l.* or 300*l.* at a time to each Warehouse within their own County, to Answer the Purposes above mentioned, and charge the same in his Land Tax Account to the Bank of  
*England,*

[ 9 ]

*England,* to be placed to Account of the standing Fund.

And as some Capital Fund must be always kept up and supported for effectually executing this Scheme, and as the Woollen Trade alone will be so greatly benefited by it. 'Tis further proposed, that one Penny Duty be laid on every Pound of Wool, growing in *Great-Britain,* to support this Standing Fund; and as the Growth of Wool in *Great-Britain,* is allowed by knowing and experienced Persons in the Woollen Trade, to be on the lowest Computation not less than Two Hundred Thousand Packs in a Year, which at one Penny *per* Pound Duty (each Pack of Wool, containing Two Hundred and Forty Pound Weight) will produce Two Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year. This without any other Aid or Duty, will be always amply sufficient to support this Scheme.

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*The Duty on Wool may be laid and easily collected in the following Manner.*

**T**HAT the Collector of the King's Tax, in every Parish in *Great-Britain*, do take an Account at Sheering time of all Wool Shorne, as to Weight and Number of Fleeces, and Charge the same with one Penny *per* Pound Duty, to the Farmers Account, to be paid to the Collector, at the same time, and in the same manner as the Land Tax Money is paid, and to be by him Returned to the General Receiver, and so to the Bank; and all Butchers and Buyers of Skins, and those that Pull and Draw the Wool off the Skins, &c. to account Weekly or Monthly, in the same manner, attended with a Penalty, and the Collector to have an Allowance for his Trouble.

And lastly, as there will be a Necessity of appointing (like the General Post

[ 11 ]

Post Office) one Chief and General Office in *London*, to Receive, Settle and Register all Accounts relating to the Wool Trade and Duties; and at the Head of which a General Supervisor must be appointed with a fit Number of Clerks to go thro' the Duty of the said Office, with Salaries for the same.

And as *Anthony Sympson* hath been at great Pains and Trouble, in considering and framing this Scheme. It is humbly hoped, if either the whole of the Scheme and Method proposed by the said *Anthony Sympson*, or the essential Parts of it be so approved, as to be put in Practice. That the said *Anthony Sympson*, may have some suitable Reward or Recompence for the same, either by being made Supervisor for Life, of the said General Office, or a suitable Salary for Life allowed him Yearly out of the Capital Fund.

And as *IRELAND* must be laid under the same Restraints.

[ 12 ]

'Tis humbly apprehended that the same Scheme, properly enforced by Authority of Parliament, and duly executed, will Answer all the Ends there, as in *England*. — But when this is effected, it will be necessary to give all fitting Encouragement, by taking off their Hands such Wool and Spinnings in Wool as cannot be used and manufactured in their own Country; and in order to do this, and open the Currency of the Wool Trade, between them and *England*, and bring it into a safe and proper Channel. 'Tis further humbly proposed.

That the like Warehouses be provided as to Distance from the Sea Coast, as in *England*, and all Wool-Masters, between the Sea Coast and Warehouses, be obliged to carry in their Wool in the same manner, and none taken out, or suffered to go Coast Ways without a Permit.

That no Wool, Bay, Yarne, or any other Spinning in Wool, be suffered to pass, between the Warehouses and Sea Coast, without a Permit from one of the  
said

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said Warehouses, and afterwards account for it as in *England*.

That Fifteen or Twenty Register Ships be appointed and properly Stationed, for bringing over the Wool, &c. and that no one Ship, or more, so freighted be suffered to sail without a Convoy to see her or them safe Landed in *England*.

That such Ships be always freighted from the said Warehouses, and the Wool fetched from thence, to be guarded to the Sea Coast, till 'tis put on Board. — By thus freighting from the Warehouses only, no Dealer in Wool, &c. can carry any large Quantities towards the Coast, under false Pretences of freighting the Ships; and consequently by thus stripping and not suffering any Quantity of Wool to be near the Coast, it must put it out of every ones Power to send Wool to *France*, or any other Part of the World.

An

An Estimate of the Yearly Expences of the three Men of War and eight armed Sloops, now employed on the Coast of IRELAND, to guard and prevent the Running of Wool.

	l.	s.	d.
THE three Men of War, being Sixth Rate Ships, the Compliment of each Ship, 130 Men, at four Pounds per Month for each Man.	20,280	00	0
The eight armed Sloops, 80 Men to each Sloop, at four Pounds per Month for each Man.	33,280	00	0
	53,560 00 0		

Suppose

Suppose 24 Register Ships will be necessary for bringing the Wool from Ireland to the Ports of England, as follows.

	l.	s.	d.
Six Ships of 25 Men at four Pounds a Man per Month.	7800	00	0
Eight Ships of 20 Men at the same	8320	00	0
Ten Ships of 15 Men at Ditto.	7800	00	0
	23,920 00 0		

By which will be saved 29,640 l. Yearly, which will Answer the Expence of four Sixth Rate Men of War to Convoy and bring safe the Irish Wool to the Ports of England.

F I N I S.

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