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R E P O R T
FROM THE
C O M M I T T E E

Appointed to Examine and State to the

H O U S E o f C O M M O N S

T H E

Matters of Fact in the several Petitions of the Manu-
facturers of, and Traders and Dealers in,

T H E

L I N E N M A N U F A C T O R Y .



Printed in the Year M.DCC.LI.

[1]

REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

Relating to

Chequed and Striped Linens.

THE Committee to whom it was referred to examine and state to the House the Matter of Fact contained in the several Petitions of the Manufacturers of Striped and Chequered Linens, and the Traders and Dealers in the Linen Manufactory, in the Town and Parish of *Manchester* in the County of *Lancaster*, and the Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and other the Manufacturers of Linen Goods, and the Traders and Dealers therein, within the said Town and Parish, and in the Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers of Striped and Chequered Linens, and the Traders and Dealers in the Linen Manufactory in the Town and Parish of *Wigan* in the County of *Lancaster*, and the Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and other the Manufacturers of Linen Goods, and the Traders and Dealers therein, within the said Town and Parish, and in the Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers, and other the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufactures, within the Town and Parish of *Blackburn* in the County of *Lancaster*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves,

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and

and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers, and others the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufacture, within the Town and Parish of *Preston* in the County of *Lancaster*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on behalf of themselves, and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers, and others the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufacture, within the Town and Parish of *Stockport* in the County of *Chester*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the several Merchants, and other Dealers, within the City of *London*, concerned in the Cotton-Trade, and in the *British* Manufactures of coarse Chequed and Striped Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers of Chequed and Striped Linens, and of the Traders and Dealers in the Linen Manufactory, in the Town of *Warrington* in the County of *Lancaster*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and others the Manufacturers of Linen Goods, and the Dealers therein, within the said Town, &c. and also the Petition of the Merchants and Dealers in Linens made in *Ireland*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on behalf of themselves, and many others concerned and employed in the said Manufacture; have, pursuant to the Order of the House, proceeded to state the Matters of the said Petitions: Which they find to be as follows:

As to the first-mentioned Petition:

An Act of the 15th and 16th Year of his present Majesty's Reign was read, whereby a Bounty of 1 *d.* per Yard was granted upon all *British* and *Irish* Linens made of Hemp or Flax, of the Value of 6 *d.* and not exceeding 12 *d.* per Yard; and of a Half-penny a Yard upon all such Linen, under the Value of 6 *d.* per Yard, which should be exported from *Great Britain* to *Africa*, *America*, or *Portugal*, or to *Spain*, when it should be lawful to export such Linens into that Kingdom, from the 25th *March* 1743. for Seven Years, and to the End of the then next Session of Parliament.

Then an Act of the 18th Year of his present Majesty was read, whereby a further Bounty of a Halfpenny per Yard was granted upon all such Linen of the Value of 5 *d.* and not exceeding 12 *d.* per

per Yard, which should be exported from *Great Britain* to *Africa*, *America*, *Portugal*, *Gibraltar*, *Minorca*, or to *Spain*, when it should be lawful to export such Linens into that Kingdom, from the 24th Day of *June* 1746. to the 25th of *March* 1750. and till the End of the next Session of Parliament.

Then an Act of the 22d Year of his present Majesty was read; by which the said Bounties were further continued for Three Years, and from thence to the End of the next Session of Parliament.

Then a printed Paper, intituled, "Premiums given by the Linen-Board of *Ireland* for the Encouragement of that Manufactory," was produced to your Committee, in order to shew, that the Linen-Board in *Ireland* have, by printed Papers yearly published by their Secretary, for some Years past, since the said Bounties first took place, promised very high Premiums upon Linen Cloth, made fit for the Use of Servants and Negroes in the *British* Colonies, and for other Uses mentioned in the said Papers. The said Paper is annexed in the Appendix, No. I.

Then Mr. *Samuel Touchet*, Merchant, being examined, said, Great Quantities of Chequed and Striped Linens are made of *Irish* Yarn in and about *Manchester*, and other Places in *Lancashire*; which Yarn is also used in the Manufacture of Linen mixed with Cotton: And he produced to the Committee several Patterns of those Goods, which he said were made of *Irish* Yarn only:

That he is concerned in this Manufacture; and the Goods he used formerly to sell for 6 *d.* $\frac{3}{4}$, he could not now make for 7 *d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ a Yard.

In order to shew the Decrease in the Manufacture of the said Species of Goods, he gave your Committee the following State thereof, in the House to which he belongs, for the last Five Years; viz.

| In the Year. | Prices of Linen Goods made of <i>Irish</i> Yarn, containing about 40 Yards each. | Of Goods made of Cotton and <i>Irish</i> Yarn, containing about 40 Yards each. | Value of both of the said Goods exported, or sold for Exportation. |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| | l. | l. | l. s. d. |
| 1746 | 7,163 | 2,625 | 17,277 0 0 |
| 1747 | 5,304 | 1,988 | 12,039 0 0 |
| 1748 | 4,679 | 1,453 | 8,826 0 0 |
| 1749 | 4,003 | 1,167 | 8,792 0 0 |
| 1750 | 3,294 | 1,161 | 5,074 0 0 |

That he fears the Exports will still continue to decrease this Year, from the small Demand made for the same during the first Two Months of it, in which Time they have not sold above

30*l.* worth, whereas they used to sell to the Amount of 1500*l.* in the same Time.

That the Price of *Irish* Yarn has increased within these Two Years, from 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 0*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ per Spangle, which is about the Weight of Two Pounds and an half.

That before the Year 1740. the Demand for these Goods was very great; and the Manufacture increased from the Commencement thereof, and continued to increase, even during the War, till the Year 1746.

Being asked, Whether the War did not increase the Exports? he said, Perhaps it might to particular Places; for great Quantities had been sold to the *Spanish West-Indies* by Way of *Jamaica*; but that the same Exports might be continued by Way of *Old Spain*, if we had Yarn as cheap as Foreigners.

Being asked, Whether the Exports were not larger in the War, than before? he said, That the Trade in general had increased; for that Forty Years ago the *Dutch* supplied our Home-Consumption, and none of the *English* Manufacture was exported till about 25 Years since.

Being asked, Whether the *Spaniards* had not been induced, by getting those Goods by Way of *Jamaica* free of the *Indulto*, to lay up such large Stores as might decrease the Exports in time of Peace? he said, He did not apprehend that was the Case, since we were not able to supply their Demands during the War; and that the high Charge of Freight and Insurance during the War was equivalent to the *Indulto*, so that they might now be supplied near as cheap by Way of *Old Spain*.

That he attributes the Advance of *Irish* Yarn to the Bounties given in *Ireland* on coarse brown Linens; and that the narrow *Irish* Linens are used by Negroes in the Plantations, which in some measure interferes with our Trade.

And being asked, If the Bounties did not enable the *Irish* to under-sell the *Germans*? he said, That he believes they do.

That great Quantities of Cheques and Stripes are exported by the *French*, *Dutch*, and *Germans*, who are supplied with Linen Yarn cheaper than we, to *Spain* and *Portugal*, and to some of our Plantations.

And being asked, Whether the Importation of *Irish* Yarn is not decreased? he said, That it did decrease in the Years 1747 and 1748. and believes in 1749. but that in the Year 1750. it increased again: And that about Twenty Trusses more were imported in the Year 1750. than in 1746. which Increase was occasioned by the new Branches of Trade for Home-Consumption.

And being asked, Whether he does not apprehend the Decrease of

of Exports in the Years 1747. 1748. and 1749. was owing to the Prize-Goods carried into our Settlements in *America*? he said, He believed not; for that the Enemy took from us, in the last Two Years of the War, more of those Goods than we took from them.

Mr. *John Craven* said, That he traded 12 or 14 Years in Stripes and Cheques for Home-Consumption and Exportation: That when he lived at *Manchester*, about 15 Years ago, the Manufacturers made use of *Irish* Yarn only: That he believes *Silesia* Yarn might be used in those Manufactures, if it was not too dear.

Then an Act of the Parliament of *Ireland*, 13 *Car.* II. was read; whereby it appeared, that a Duty of Twenty Shillings is imposed upon every Pack of *Irish* Yarn exported, containing 400 Weight at Six-score to the Hundred.

Mr. *Touche*, being again examined, said, That he imports *Irish* Yarn, which he manufactures into Cheques and Stripes; and that the Duty of 20*s.* per Pack imposed thereon, has, for 14 Years last past, upon a Medium of the coarse and fine Yarn, amounted to 5 per Cent. That the Expence of Commission, and Charges in purchasing it, is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. besides the Charge of Freight and Carriage to *Manchester*, which is above 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. more.

Being asked, Whether the Duty is 5 per Cent. at present, or for how many Years it has been so? he said, That, on an Average of 1000 Packs imported last Year, the Duty amounted to about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. but that it has been at 5, and is now rather more upon coarse Yarns: That in 1746. the Imports of Yarn were large, and they paid above 6 per Cent. Duty; and that it was full 6 per Cent. in the Year 1747.

And being asked, Whether the Charge of importing *Irish* Linen to *London*, did not amount to more than 2 per Cent.? he said, He thought not, unless the Premium of Insurance was included; but that the Carriage from *Manchester* to *London* is dearer than from *Dublin* to *London*; for the Goods are brought from *Manchester* to *London* by Land.

Being asked, What was the Charge of Commission upon *Irish* Linens sent into this Kingdom? he said, That it amounted to about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.

The Witness then proceeded to acquaint the Committee with the Average Price of *Irish* Yarn ever since he has been in Trade, which was upwards of Fourteen Years; and was as follows:

In the Year 1736. it was 19*d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ a Spangle, *Irish* Currency; and from thence to 1743. it never exceeded 19*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$. In 1743. and 1744.

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1744. it was 23 *d.* per Spangle: And in the Year 1745. it fell, on account of the Rebellion, as the Witness apprehends, to 19 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. In 1746. it continued at 18 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$; and, in the Year 1747. advanced to 23 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$: And in 1748. 1749. and 1750. the Average Price was 2 *s.* 0 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$.

That he thinks the *Irish* Manufacturers of coarse Browns can afford to give higher Prices for Yarn than we; for he has been concerned in the Exportation of *Irish* Browns, and *Irish* Cheques; and the *Irish* Browns cost 4 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ a Yard, *English* Currency, on board a Ship, after Deduction of the Bounty; and the Cheques cost 7 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ a Yard on board: That the *Irish* Browns 'sold in the *West-Indies* for 9 *d.* and the Cheques only for 10 *d.* *West-India* Currency: So that the Exporter of Browns would gain Three Halfpence a Yard more than the Exporter of Cheques; but that Cheques will cost about one Penny a Yard more than Browns of the same Fineness, on account of the Dyeing and Bleaching.

The Witness, on a Cross-Examination, being asked, Whether Flax has not been dearer for some Years past? answered, That he could not say as to *Ireland*; but in *England* it was dearer during the War: And that he does not know whether the Importation of Flax from *Ireland* to *England* has been greater or less.

That the Importation of *Irish* Yarn into *England* increased in the Year 1750. but not in the Year 1749. and many Reasons might be given for that Increase in the Year 1750. for when the Yarn advanced in 1748. and 1749. the Manufacturers run out their old Stocks, in Hopes the Price would fall, and the high Price of Cotton had obliged them to use coarse Linen instead of it: That, in a particular Species of Goods made use of for our Home-Consumption, the Manufacturers made use of $\frac{7}{8}$ Parts Linen: Another Species, which used to be made all of Cotton one Way, was now made not above $\frac{1}{2}$ Part Cotton: And in another Species, $\frac{1}{4}$ Part less Cotton was used than formerly: That the Cheques used for Furniture employed, as the Witness believes, One-third Part of our Manufacturers, without which the Imports of Yarn would have been One-fourth less.

And that the Manufacture of Linens and Cottons has, upon the Whole, decreased within these Four last Years.

Being asked, Whether the Importation of Cotton in general had increased or decreased? he said, He had sold less in the Year 1750. than for several Years before; and the Dearness of Cotton is owing to the Advance of the Price abroad, both in the Plantations, and the *Mediterranean*.

That Yarn was cheaper in the Year 1746. in *Ireland*: And he believes the *Manchester* Manufacturers imported great Quantities; by

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by which means the Market being overstocked, it is natural to conclude it occasioned the Fall of the Price in 1747.

And being asked, Whether the Importation in 1748. did not increase as the Manufacturers wrought up their Stocks? he said, That he did not apprehend, that they imported more in 1748. than they used in that Year.

And being asked, If the Exportation of *Irish* Cheques was not prohibited? he said, That he believed it was.

Being asked, Whether the Bounty of Three Halfpence a Yard is not open to the *Manchester* People, as well as the *Irish*? he said, It was: But the Yarn is spun from the Refuse of their Flax used for fine Linen.

Being asked, Whether the Yarn made use of for Ozenbrigs in *Ireland* is not of a better Quality than that used for coarse Cheques in *England*? he said, The Warp was better, but the Shoot the same.

And being asked, Whether the Yarn they use at *Manchester* would be fit for Ozenbrigs? he said, That he apprehends, that the Ozenbrig Yarn must bear a better Price in *Ireland*; but the Charge of the Carriage to *Manchester* enhances the Price.

Being asked, Whether a Manufacturer at *Dublin*, who buys Yarn at *Londonderry*, *Drogheda*, and *Belfast*, would not pay as much Commission as a Person at *Manchester*? he said, He should think so.

And being asked, Whether the Expence of Carriage from those Places to *Dublin* is not as great as thence to *Manchester*? he said, That he was unacquainted with the Expence of Carriage in *Ireland*; but believes they might have it to *Dublin* as cheap as to *Liverpool*; and that the Water-carriage from *Liverpool* to *Manchester* was expensive, as it comes thro' a private Navigation: And if the Bounty was taken off the *Irish* Goods, they would still have the Advantage of the *Manchester* People, as the latter pay 5 *per Cent.* on the Exportation of Yarn from *Ireland*.

That the Expence of manufacturing 150 *l.* worth of coarse Cheques is about One-third of the Value of the Materials.

In order to shew the Reason for the late Advance of the Price of Cotton, the Witness produced Two Extracts of Letters; the one dated *Antigua*, 22 Nov. 1749. the other dated *Salonica*, the 11th of May 1750. by which it appeared, that the Governor of the *Dutch* Settlement at *Eustatia* had made great Demands for Cotton from our Cotton-Islands in the *West-Indies*; and that the *French* and *Italians* have bought up great Quantities of Cotton in *Turky*. The said Extracts are inserted in the Appendix, N^o II.

And

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And the Witness said, That the *French* and *Dutch* work up this Cotton much in the same manner as the *Manchester* Manufacturers do: And if the *Manchester* Traders have not their Yarn at a cheaper Rate, they must totally lose their Exports; which is near one Quarter of the whole Trade; the most of which will be gained by the *French* and *Dutch*; and some little by the *Germans*.

That he has heretofore sold Cheques to *Cadiz*; but has lately refused an Order thither, because he could not sell his Goods there to Profit; the *French*, *Dutch*, and *Germans*, selling those Goods Ten *per Cent.* cheaper than he could afford to do; and that he lost One or Two *per Cent.* by the last Goods he sold there: But if the Duty on coarse Yarns was taken off, and the Bounty to cease, the *English* could sell their Goods cheaper than the *Dutch* or *French*; who at present can buy their coarse Yarn much cheaper than the *British* Manufacturers in several Places in *Germany*, and the *Baltick*; by which means they are enabled to give a greater Price for their Cotton, than we can, who pay a Duty of 3 *d.* *per* Pound for coarse *Hamburgh* Yarns; which amounts to 30 *l.* *per Cent.*: And tho' he has had a Demand for coarse Goods, since *Christmas* last, yet it was not at a Price he could afford to sell.

That Part of the Trade carried on by the *French* and *Dutch* in their Manufactures, is to our Plantations: And their Trade thither has increased of late, as the Witness believes.

That we send our Chequed Linens to all the Plantations; and some to *Gibraltar* and *Mabon*: And the *Dutch* can legally send their Goods thither, if they first land them in *England*; but they send them from *Holland* directly, and carry on a clandestine Trade.

Being ask'd, When the Linen and Cotton Manufactures commenced? and whether, at that time, they did not labour under the same Disadvantages as at present? he said, That they began about Forty Years ago; at which time the Duty on *Irish* Yarn was the same; but the Bounties were granted about Nine Years ago; and there has been no further Disadvantage, except the Duty of Five *per Cent.* laid on all Foreign Yarns: That the Trade has of late Years increased; but that there were large Premiums given in *Ireland* in the Year 1750.; and that if the Bounties were taken off, he believes there would be as much Yarn exported from *Ireland*.

That he believes the Quantity of Linen made in *Ireland* has increased since the Bounties; but don't think it would diminish, if the Bounties were taken off.

And

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And being ask'd, If every Pound of Yarn brought into *England* is not the Cause of a less Quantity of Linen being wrought up in *Ireland*? he said, Not if they want Weavers; which he believes to be the Case.

And being asked, Whether the Exportation of coarse Browns from *Ireland* interfered with the *Manchester* Cheques? he said, He believed they were pretty much used for different Purposes.

Mr. *John Fell* said, That he lately came from *New-York*; and that it is a common Practice for *New-York* Vessels to bring Cheques and Stripes from *Holland* to *New-York*: And tho' he believes it to be contraband Trade, yet they are publicly landed, tho' not entered.

That he has been prevented from selling *British* Cheques, by the Quantity of *Dutch* Linen so brought in.

That he thinks the *Dutch* Linen not so good as the *British*; but they are cheaper, which gives them the Preference: That he saw a Piece of *Dutch* Linen in a Shop at *New-York*, marked to be sold cheaper by Retail, than he could afford the *British* by Wholesale: And if the *British* Linens continue at the present Price, the Importation of Foreign Cheques must increase there: That he can't tell what Quantity of Linen Goods are smuggled into *New-York*, having never dealt in them: Nor does he know how long this Trade has been carried on; but believes, it has increased lately.

Being cross-examined, he said, That if any thing was done to lessen the Exports of *Irish* Brown Linens from hence, it would increase the Importation of *Dutch* Linens to *New-York*: That the *Dutch* Linens are brought thither for the Consumption of that Province, as the Witness believes: And that it is too common a Practice to land a small Part of the Cargo in *England*; and under that Pretence run the rest.

And being ask'd, If the Chequed Linens were exported from *Ireland*, as well as *England*, it would not be a Means of driving the *Dutch* out of the Manufacture? he said, It was probable it would.

And being ask'd, Whether the Price of Flax had not risen of late throughout *Europe*? he said, He believed it had.

That Eight Years ago Cotton in the Plantations was from 1 *d.* to 1 *s.* a Pound; and it has risen within these Two Years from 18 *d.* to 2 *s.* 1 *d.* *per* Pound, which he attributes to the Number of *French*, *Dutch*, and *German* Vessels employed in buying it up; and that is the general Opinion in the *West-Indies*: And that the Price of Flax-seed in the Plantations is very much advanced; some having been sold for 10 *s.* a Bushel.

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Mr.

Mr. *John Craven*, being again examined, said, The Price of coarse Yarn in *Ireland* has risen since the Year 1746. from 18 *d.* to 2 *s.* 0 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ a Spangle; and the present Price is from 2 *s.* 0 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$, to 1 *s.* 11 *d.* which he attributes to the Bounties on Exportation of coarse *Irish* Linens, of the Nature of Ozenbrigs and Sailcloth.

And being asked, Whether the Importation of Yarn had been less last Year, than any other Year? he said, He could not tell what the general Importation had been; but that he himself had imported less.

That the Price of Cotton was considerably advanced of late Years; which was generally attributed, by Persons of the Trade, to the *French* and *Dutch* buying up great Quantities of that Commodity in the Plantations: And that it was the general Opinion, that the heavy Duties on coarse Yarn enabled them to under-sell the *British* Manufacturers, who think themselves in Danger of losing that Trade.

That if the Duty in *Ireland* on Yarn exported thence was taken off, and the Bounties on Browns extended to Cheques and Stripes, we should undoubtedly be able to under-sell the *French* and *Dutch*; or if the *Irish* Duty was taken off, and the Bounties discontinued, he apprehends we should also be able to under-sell the *Germans* and *Hollanders*, as we should have a greater Quantity of Yarn.

But if the Duty on coarse Foreign Yarns, imported into the Kingdom, were entirely taken off, it would be a greater Advantage to our Manufactures, than either of the other Methods.

And being ask'd, Whether a considerable Reduction of the said Duties on Foreign coarse Yarn would not answer the Purpose? he said, It must be very considerable to be of any Service.

Being cross-examin'd, he said, He did not know the Difference in the Price of Foreign and *British* Cheques; only in general, That Foreigners under-sell us: That he believes, upon the Whole, the Trade in *Manchester* Goods is increased, but not on coarse Linens; nor in the Exportation-Trade, but only in some temporary Manufactures, which depend upon Fashion.

And being ask'd, If the Duty on Yarn exported from *Ireland* was taken off, and the Bounties on Linens were discontinued, it would not be a Means of decreasing the Linen-Trade in *Ireland*? he said, To be sure it would.

That it is the general Opinion of Persons in Trade, that the *French* and *Dutch* import Linen-Goods into our Plantations: But he looks upon that to have been only in the time of War, when several Ships of theirs, going to their own Plantations, were taken, which he believes were sent to *Enstatia*; from whence the

the Goods have been imported into our Plantations; which must have lessened the Demands for the *British* Manufactures.

Being asked, Whether, when he mentioned removing the Bounties from Narrow Linens, he did not mean that the Prohibition of exporting Chequed Linens from *Ireland* should continue? he said, He did; but that he does not know, whether the taking off the Prohibition of exporting those Linens from *Ireland*, would be a Means of keeping Foreigners from interfering with our Trade; for that he believes we can manufacture on better Terms than the *Irish*, who have hardly Weavers enough: And that he apprehends we could export them upon cheaper Terms; but can't determine: And if the *Irish* were to export great Quantities, he looks upon it they would interfere with Foreigners:

And that, without doubt, it would be a still more effectual Way, if the *Irish* were admitted to export their Cheques; and to have the same Bounty as the *British* Manufacturers.

That if several Weavers are employed in the Woollen-Trade in *Ireland*, he believes, if the Linen-Trade was opened, they would go into it: That they could not do it at first; but might learn in Two or Three Months time.

That he thinks, if these Encouragements were given to the Exportation of Cheques from *Ireland*, it would ruin the *English* Trade; but that both might be preserved by taking off the Duty on *Hamburg* Yarn; which would be a greater Advantage to the *British* Manufacturers, than a Bounty equal to the *Irish*: That coarse and fine Foreign Yarn pay an equal Duty; which is in effect a heavier Duty on coarse Yarn.

Having said, That the *Manchester* People can work cheaper than the *Irish*, he was ask'd, Whether, that being the Case, if they had the Yarn at the same Price at *Manchester*, and the Duties taken off, How they could interfere with the *Manchester* Trade? He answered, Because Part of their Manufactures would be sent Abroad.

That the Reason of the present Decay of Trade is, That the *French* and *Dutch* under-sell us.

That the Manufactures in *Manchester* depend on Linen, as well as Cotton: That the Linen has decreased, and the Cotton increased; but that the Cotton is only a temporary Thing: But the Exportation is not increased.

Mr. *Touchet* being again examined, said, That he apprehends, that if the Duties on coarse Foreign Yarn were taken off, it would enable us to send Cheques and Stripes to Market, as cheap as Foreigners: That the Duty imposed in *Holland* on that Species of Goods, is Two *per Cent.*; but the *Hollanders* import them at the Rate

Rate of One *per Cent.* And if the *British* Subjects were on the same Footing, they could under-sell the *Dutch*: And the lowering the Duties would certainly increase the Importation of Yarn; and consequently more Duties would be paid.

That the Home-Consumption and Exportation of Chequed and Striped Linen is decreased: But that, if you take Cotton in, he does not know whether it has increased or decreased, on a Medium of Seven Years: And that the most of their Linen is mixed with Cotton: That the Linen Manufacture is very much decreased of late; but can't say, whether the Trade has increased on a Medium: That he can't ascertain, whether it has been greater or less, for the last Seven Years, or the Seven Years immediately preceding; but it has decreased for Two or Three Years last past.

That he believes the Importation of *Irish* Yarn has been greater for the last Seven Years than for the Seven Years before; and that the whole Quantity imported must certainly have been used; but a great Part of it was used for Inkles and Tape: And that the Species made up of Cotton and Yarn are not reckoned Part of the Linen-Trade.

That the *Manchester* Trade has continued to increase till within these Two or Three Years; but the Increase of our Consumption is to be attributed to a particular Fashion in Furniture.

Being ask'd, Whether the temporary Manufacture of Furniture Cheques did not hurt the Exportation? he said, It did not; but that the Decrease of the Exportation was owing to the high Price of Foreign Yarn; and to other Nations interfering with us in Foreign Markets, as well as in our own Plantations: And the Decrease of Exportation, if not prevented, will enable Foreigners to run away with the Trade; and that the Export-Trade of Cheques and Stripes has not been very considerable to any Place but our own Plantations, except one Species of Goods, of which he produced a Sample to the Committee, exported to *Africa*:

And that the Increase of these Manufactures in Foreign Countries has advanced the Price of Cotton to double what it was formerly; tho' the *Lancashire* Manufactures have consumed less for these Ten Months past, than they did Ten Years ago;

In regard to the Petition of the Manufacturers and others the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufacture within the Town and Parish of *Stockport*, in the County of *Chester*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent:

Mr.

Mr. *Joseph Hague* said, That great Quantities of Cheques and Stripes have been worked up at *Stockport*; and that the Manufacture is lately decreased. And

In regard to the Petition of the Manufacturers, and other the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufactures, within the Town and Parish of *Blackburn*, in the County of *Lancaster*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent; and also the Petition of the Manufacturers, and others the Traders and Dealers in the Linen and Cotton Manufacture, within the Town and Parish of *Preston*, in the County of *Lancaster*, and Parts adjacent, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, in behalf of themselves, and others the Traders and Dealers within the said Town and Parish, and Parts adjacent:

Mr. *Touchet* said the same as Mr. *Hague* did upon the *Stockport* Petition; and for the Support of the rest of the Allegations in the said Petitions, the Petitioners referred to the Evidence already given on the Petition from *Manchester*.

With regard to the Petition of several Merchants, and other Dealers, within the City of *London*, concerned in the Cotton-Trade, and in the *British* Manufactures of coarse Chequed and Striped Linen, and of Linen mixed with Cotton:

Mr. *Touchet*, being examin'd, said, That about Eighteen Years ago he had seen *Dutch* and *German* Cheques sold in *London* for Home-Consumption; and hath been informed, our Home-Trade for those Goods was heretofore entirely furnish'd by Foreigners, which is now supplied by our own Manufactures.

Mr. *Thomas Tipping* said, That he has been a Manufacturer of Chequed and Striped Linens, and Linen mixed with Cotton, Fifteen or Sixteen Years: That great Quantities of those Goods have been exported, which are wrought up chiefly of *Irish* Yarn: That they have used a little *Scotch* Yarn in the Manufacture; but that, as well as the *Irish* Yarn, has been dearer of late than formerly: That Cotton has likewise been dearer; and the Reason of working *Irish* Yarn is, because it is cheaper than Foreign, which is subject to a high Duty: That there is no Duty on *Scotch* Linen-Yarn, which costs something more at first than *Irish*; but it works further: That the coarse *Irish* Yarn, which Seven Years ago cost no more than 19 *d.* a Spangle, weighing about Two Pounds and an half, on an Average now costs 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* 0 *d.* ½. And that the Traders cannot advance the Price of their Manufactures, in proportion to the Price of the Materials; which has obliged them to work for very little Profit.

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Being asked, Whether their Trade was not increased since he entered into it? he said, It had; because it was then a new Trade.

That he has found the Exportation of these Goods decrease; and it is the general Complaint, that they do so: That they have employed the Manufacturers for the last Year or two with very little Advantage, in hopes the Trade would mend; but he thinks the same Number of Hands cannot possibly be employed, if the Yarn should continue at the present high Price: That for the last Six Months One-third of the Hands have been employ'd in large Cheques used for Furniture, which have had a great Run, but not many of them have been exported; and they were begun to be worked about Three Years ago; but that such Goods are no Staple-Manufacture, being quite precarious, as the Use of them depends upon Fashion, and very few of them have been exported; and the Export-Trade is the most advantageous; and that the Witness had not exported One-third so much within this Year or two last, as he did formerly.

That the Price of Cotton was much increas'd of late, having been sold for 8 *d.* and 8 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ a Pound Fifteen or Sixteen Years ago; but it has been for some Years sold for 18 *d.* a Pound.

And being ask'd, Whether some particular Persons had not bought up great Quantities of Cotton to sell again to the Manufacturers, and, by keeping it by them a considerable Time, enhanced the Price? he said, There are People both at *London* and *Manchester*, who have bought up great Quantities, and sold them in Course; but he never saw any Person buy Cotton, and after refuse to sell it: They sold it to the Manufacturers: That if People have Money to lay out, and see a Commodity rising, it is natural to conclude they will buy it: But he knows several Persons, who have made it their Business to go to *Liverpoole* and *Lancaster* to buy Cotton, which they have sold out immediately to the Manufacturers at a very small Profit, though dearer every Week; and have gone to *Liverpoole* every Week to buy it, and sell it again; and have gone the next Week, and laid out the same Money.

And being asked, Whether Mr. *Touchet* and Mr. *Hague* had not bought up more Cotton than could be consumed in more than one Year? He said, he believed not; nor does he know, that they have bought up any Cotton in the *West-Indies*.

Being asked, Whether the Price of Cotton was not higher now, than at the Conclusion of the late Peace? he said, He believes it was higher some time before the Peace, than now: That immediately after the Peace it fell, and so did every Species

of the *American* Produce; and the Reason of the Rise of Cotton since, was, as the Witness has heard, the *French* and *Dutch* buying up great Quantities, for which they can afford to give a better Price than the *British* Manufacturers, as they have their Linen-Yarn cheaper; and that there is less Cotton comes from *America* than formerly; and he don't think the Increase of Price is to be attributed to Persons keeping Quantities by them.

Being asked, Whether the Trade in general, including that Species of the Manufacture which was used as Furniture, and depended upon Fashion, was increased, or decreased? he said, It was greater now than Seven Years ago; and had been greater the last Seven Years, than the Seven Years immediately preceding; but that he thinks it has decreased for some Years last past, and imagines the high Duties on Linen-Yarn, and the advanced Price of Cotton, is the Reason of it: That he don't know how much the *French* and *Dutch* under-sell the *British* Manufacturers in Foreign Markets; but if the Duties upon Importation of Foreign Yarn were taken off, we could maintain our Trade against all *Europe*: That the *Manchester* Trade has been increasing for many Years past (till very lately), and is still capable of great Extension; if the Materials could be had at reasonable Rates; in which Case the Trade would be extended, to the Prejudice of the *French* and *Hollanders*, who furnish great Quantities of Cheques and Stripes to the *Spaniards*, who might be supplied with neater and better Goods from *Great Britain*; and that there would be a sufficient Number of Manufacturers to carry on the Trade for Exportation and Home-Consumption.

And being asked, Whether the Cotton had not been monopolized? he said, That large Quantities had been bought, but not with an Intention to raise the Price; and that no more has been bought, than would supply the Trade; but the advancing the Price of Cotton abroad is owing to other Causes: That the Produce of it in *America* has not been equal to what it was formerly, the Planters having turned their Cotton into Sugar-Plantations.

Being asked, If any Weavers, at or about *Manchester*, were unemployed? he said, They were all employed in one Manufacture or another; nor would they stay if they were not.

Mr. *John Irish* said, That he had been an Exporter of Cheques and Stripes, and Linens mixed with Cotton, Four or Five Years; but not much till within these Two Years: That he cannot export Cheques now to the same Advantage he did when he began Trade; for great Quantities are sent by the *Dutch* and *French* into *North America*, and sold cheaper than *British* Cheques, and

and *Irish* Ozenbrigs; and that they under-sell the *Irish* Ozenbrigs, notwithstanding the Bounties: But if the Duty was taken off the coarse Foreign Yarn, the *British* Manufactures would gain the Preference, as their Cheques and Stripes are better than the Foreign.

And being asked the Question, he said, That the Price of Flax and Yarn had been raised all over *Europe*.

That he likewise deals in Cotton; which Commodity has not been bought up, so as to distress the Trade, for these Twenty-five Years, to his Knowledge.

Mr. *Touche*, being again examined, said, That he had imported foreign Yarn from *Hamburg*, *Dantzick*, and *Coningsburgh*, for 12 or 14 Years: That the Price of coarse Yarn is from 8 *d.* to 10 *d.* the Pound: And the Duty on the Yarn imported from *Germany*, amounts to 29 *l.* 10 *s.* per Cent.; and on Yarn from the *North* Country, and Spruce Yarn from the *Baltick*, to 24 *l.* per Cent.: That the foreign Yarn is rather dearer than heretofore; but that is inconsiderable: But there is a great Inequality in the Duty on coarse and fine Yarns; for coarse Yarn, of the Value of 10 *d.* pays as much Duty as fine Yarn, of the Value of 5 *s.* though the latter in Use will go Five times as far as the former; so that the Duty on Yarn of 5 *s.* a Pound is no more than Five per Cent. whereas the Duty on the coarse Species is from 24 to 30 per Cent.

Mr. *James Johnson* said, That he lives in *Spitalfields*, and has been concerned in Trade 16 or 18 Years; That he has heretofore made considerable Quantities of Linen Goods mixed with Cotton, chiefly Stripes, for the Use of the *Guiney* Trade; but does not make so much now as formerly, on account of the Dearness of *Hamburg* Yarn, which has compelled him to go into another Branch of Manufacture, it being advanced in the last 12 or 15 Years from 6 *s.* to 9 *s.* the Bundle.

That the Article he chiefly dealt in, was what is called *Annabasses*, which are whole Suits for the Negroes to tie round their Waists; but that the *Dutch* under-sold him in those Commodities, though the Witness made them better; and that he formerly used to make from 20 to 30,000 *Annabasses* in a Year, whereas of late Years he has not made above 5,000. But, he said, if he could have Yarn as cheap as the *Dutch*, he should not doubt but he should succeed in the said Manufactures; for that he has formerly served both *French* and *Dutch* Ships, who gave the Preference to his Manufactures, above those of their respective Countries. And if the Duties on the Importation of foreign raw Yarn were reduced to an Halfpenny a Pound, he should not doubt of still

being

being a Match for them, and that such Reduction would increase the Importation. But, if the foreign coarse Yarn continues at the present Price, it will not only affect this, but other Branches of our Manufactures.

That the Manufacture of Cheques and Stripes has of late decreased in *Spitalfields*, and is carried on at *Manchester*.

Being asked the Question, he said, That the Price of Cotton was advanced very considerably: That, just before the War broke out, the Witness bought *West-India* Cotton at 9 *d.* a Pound; and that he has since given 2 *s.* a Pound for it; and believes it now to be worth 1 *s.* 9 *d.* a Pound: That there are many Reasons to be assigned for this Advance; one of which was, That during the War the *French* took several of our Ships, which had Cotton on board, which they manufactured; and though we took more of it from the *French*, we could not use it on account of the great Duty; for that he bought some Prize-Cotton, which he was obliged to re-export.

That during the War the Consumption of Cotton in this Kingdom was very great, and continues daily to increase, many new Articles having been introduced into our Manufactures, wherein it is necessary: And the only Method by which he can conceive the Price should be reduced is, that the great Value of this Commodity will be an Encouragement to the *West-Indian* Planters to propagate it; which, if it should happen, might be a Means in Two or Three Years time of reducing the Price.

That the *French* and *Dutch* have dealt more in these Manufactures of late, than heretofore; and he has seen several Patterns of *French* and *Dutch* Goods of the Cotton and Linen Manufacture.

That they are enabled, by purchasing their Yarn at a cheaper Rate, to give an advanced Price for the Cotton: And that he supposes the Occasion of the Rise of *Hamburg* Yarn is from the great Demand for it, having seen many Patterns from Abroad, by which he concludes more is wanted.

John Marsh, Esq; informed your Committee, That he was a *Turkey* Merchant, and had resided in *Turkey* 20 Years, and he delivered in to your Committee an Account of the Prices of Cotton at *Smyrna*, from the Year 1728. to the Year 1750.; which Account is annexed in the Appendix, N^o III. By which it appears, that the Price of Cotton, in that Period, advanced from 13 ⁴/₅ Dollars per Quintal, to 37 ¹/₂ Dollars.

And being asked the Cause of such Advance, he said, That for a Year or two the Locusts had eat up the whole Crop, and a large Demand had been made for it by the *French* and *Dutch*:

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That

That the *Venetians* export annually from *Smyrna* 7000 Sacks of Cotton, and the *Dutch* 5 or 6000; that the *French* used to export about 5000 Sacks, but the last Year they exported 8000 Sacks from *Salonica*, besides the 5000 from *Smyrna*: That the *Dutch*, during the time the Witness resided in *Turky*, which was 23 Years ago, used to fix the Price of Cotton; but, since the *French* have introduced themselves into the Trade, They have fixed the Price; and if the present high Price of Cotton continues, he does not believe it will be worth the while of the *British* Merchants to follow that Trade.

That great Numbers of *British* Ships are employed in the Fish-Trade in the *Mediterranean*, and great Quantities of Woollen Goods are sent to the *Levant*; which Ships bring back Mohair, Yarn, Cotton, Fruit, and all Sort of Drugs; and the Opportunity of bringing Cotton makes the Ships bring home great Quantities of Fruit, which pays upwards of Nine Shillings an Hundred to the Crown, which they bring home in Ballast: That, about 20 Years ago, the Quantity of Cotton imported into *England* amounted to no more than 800 or 1000 Sacks annually, which was chiefly used for Candle-wicks: That, about Ten Years ago, it increased to 15 or 1600 Sacks a Year, and has continued to increase ever since, so that the Imports at present amount to 2 or 3000 Sacks annually: But, if the present Price continues, he apprehends the Importation must decrease from the Dearth of the Commodity.

Being asked, How the *French* and *Dutch* could afford to give such Prices? he said, That he knows the *French* have all possible Encouragement from the Crown for the Importation of that Commodity; that they not only manufacture all the Cotton they import, but have bought up Cotton here to be manufactured in *France*; and that our Manufacturers never buy any Cotton in *France*.

That the Cotton-Trade is increased in *Turky*; notwithstanding which, he apprehends the Price of Cotton will keep up, as the Country has been greatly cleared of that Commodity, and the *Franks* still continue to buy it up.

Mr. Robert Dinwiddie informed your Committee, That he had resided in *America*, in the Office of Inspector-General of the Sugar Islands, to the Leeward of the Island of *St. Christophers*: That the *Dutch* imported, and sold in our Plantations, Goods manufactured with Cotton, great Quantities whereof he has known to be seized.

And

And being asked the Difference of the Price of those Goods, and the *British* Manufactures, he said, There was very little in it; the *British* Manufactures were not much dearer.

Mr. David Creighton, being examined as to the Trade carried on to the Coast of *Africa*, said, That he had resided on the *Gold Coast* from the Year 1736. to 1746. and from the Year 1741. to 1747. during which time considerable Quantities of Chequed and Striped Linens were sent thither, which he believes were first introduced from *Manchester*: That of late the *French* and *Dutch* have carried Goods of the same Species to *Africa*: The Witness knew a *French* Captain, who carried Samples of Cheques and Stripes from the Coast of *Africa* to *Nantz*, in order to procure Goods to be made there in the same Fashion.

That the Importation of the *French* Manufactures increased till the Year 1744. when the War put a Stop to it; and that they sold their Goods cheaper than the *English*, i. e. they gave more of all Sorts of Goods for a Slave than the *English* did: And in their Assortments of Goods, wherewith they purchased their Slaves, they frequently put these Goods: And that the Witness has known the *Manchester* Chelloses and Checks preferred to *India* Goods; and he thinks the Cheapness of these Manufactures enables the *French* to give more of *India* and other Goods for the Purchase of a Slave.

Being cross-examined, he said, That he only knew this by Hearsay, not being able to ascertain any thing of his own Knowledge.

Mr. James Craik said, That he had resided Fourteen Years on that Part of the Coast of *Africa* called the *Gold Coast*, which he left about a Twelvemonth ago: That he has seen coarse Cheques, and Stripes, and Linen, and Cotton Goods, imported thither in Ships from *Bristol* and *Liverpoole*, the Importers whereof told him, that they were manufactured at *Manchester*: That since the War the *French* and *Dutch* have sent more of those Goods to the Coast of *Africa* than ever he knew, particularly Striped Blue and White Linens; that Goods of the same Species, though not the same Pattern, are brought thither from *England*; and that the Price of those *English* Manufactures is near the same with those of the *French* and *Dutch*.

That they reckon the Price the same; but the *French* give more Goods for their Slaves than the *British* Merchants; which they do in every other Species of Goods, as well as in those Manufactures; for that the *French* have pushed their Trade further to *Africa* since the War than the *English* have done; and he never saw so many *French* Ships on the *Gold Coast* as the last Two Years.

James

James Crockatt, Esq; informed your Committee, That he had resided Ten Years, and upwards, in *South Carolina*; and that it is 12 Years since he came from thence: That he has imported large Quantities of Cheques and Stripes, from *Scotland* and *Hamburg*, into *South Carolina*; but that it has been usual of late Years for one Ship to come annually to that Colony with large Quantities of *German* Cheques on board, which hindered the Sale of those of our own Manufacture.

That the Witness has exported *British* Cheques and Stripes; but the Exportation thereof is decreased within these Three Years; and that he has likewise exported large Quantities of *Hamburg* Cheques to *Carolina* and *Jamaica*, at greater Advantage than he could those of our own Manufacture; and that the chief Cause of the Decrease of our Export-Trade in that Species of Goods is, that the *German* Cheques are from 6 to 10 *per Cent.* cheaper than ours.

Being cross-examined, he said, That when he left *North America*, 12 Years ago, the *Hamburg* Cheques sold cheaper than the *British*; and he only remembers, that he has not shipped so many *British* Cheques within these Three Years as he did formerly; but that he cannot say why the *German* Cheques should interfere with the *British* more than formerly; only thinks the *British* Cheques have lately advanced in their Price, and the *German* have not; and that the *Hamburg* Cheques are all made of Linen.

Isaac Holmes, Esq; says he came from *South Carolina* the 19th of *October* last: That the Importation of *Hamburg* Cheques into that Colony has been very large for several Years; that *British* Cheques have been likewise imported, but to small Advantage to the Importers, who are resolved to import no more, the *German* Cheques being cheaper, and consequently preferred to the *English*; the *Hamburg* Cheques being about 9 *d.* a Yard, Yard-wide; and the *British* from 10 *d.* to 13 *d.* a Yard, and seldom more than Three-quarters wide; and the *British*, which sell for 10 *d.* are not so good as the *German* at 9 *d.*; and he has known *Hamburg* Cheques imported in *Dutch* Ships, which have brought Palatines to *Philadelphia*.

And to shew, that, while the *Dutch* can have Linen Yarn 15 or 20 *per Cent.* cheaper than we, they can afford to give so much greater Prices for their Cotton, as must in the End drive us out of the Trade;

Mr. Touchet produced an Extract of a Letter from a Merchant at *Antigua*, to *Mr. John Tomlinson*, which is as follows:

Antigua,

Antigua, Feb. 4th, 1750-1.

"We wish Cotton may this Year hold its Price the last Year: If not, there must be a monstrous Loss on it from the great Price already given, and engaged for that which is yet not picked off of the Trees or Bushes; 2 *s.* *per* Pound is already offered for what little is made here; 2 *s.* 3 *d.* *per* Pound has been offered by an Agent of Governor *Heyliger's*, of *St. Eustatia*, to the Cotton-Planters in the Island *Tortola*, and the other Islands adjacent; in which Islands they will make a monstrous Crop of Cotton, as also a good Crop of Sugars, this Year; and we fear (though Governor *Heyliger* has been so long since detested by the *Tortola* People for many Injuries he and his Family had done them) that the Money will prevail on them to supply him for this his great Offer, if the like Price be not given by the *English* Traders. Certainly Cotton must be a great Article in *Holland*, else Governor *Heyliger* would not offer so high a Price: He has already engaged the greater Part of what Cotton is made in the *Danish* Islands, *Santa Croix*, *St. John's*, and *St. Thomas*, besides the vast Quantities of that Commodity he daily imports at *St. Eustatia*, from the *French* Islands, in Three large Sloops of his, that force a Trade with the Inhabitants of the *French* Islands, though the *French* *Guarde de Costas* endeavour to oppose him, but to no purpose, as his Sloops are of great Force: He is at all this Expence to come at Cotton."

And being asked whether there was not the same Difference in the Price of Yarn to the *Dutch* and *British* Manufactures Fifteen or Sixteen Years ago, he said, There was not; for at that Time the *British* Manufacturers had *Irish* Yarn Fifteen or Twenty *per Cent.* cheaper than now.

Your Committee then proceeded to consider the Petition of the Merchants and Dealers in Linens made in *Ireland*, whose Names are thereunto subscribed, on behalf of themselves, and many others, concerned and employed in the said Manufacture. And to prove the Allegations thereof,

The Journal of the House, of the 19th of *April* 1738. was read; whereby it appeared, That the House then came to a Resolution, That the Manufacture of Linen made in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* was of late Years greatly improved and increased; whereby the Price of all such Manufactures of Foreign and Home Fabrick had been considerably reduced; and the further Extension of such Manufactures would be attended with several National

tional Advantages; and that all proper Support and Encouragement ought to be given thereto.

Then the Journal of the House, of the 24th of May 1742. was read; whereby it appeared, That the House then resolved, That the said Manufactures were greatly improved and increased; and that the Price of Linens, as well of Foreign as of Home Fabrick, had been thereby considerably reduced.

Then an Act of Parliament of the 15th and 16th Year of his present Majesty's Reign was read; wherein it is provided, That no Linen of the Manufacture of *Ireland*, to be exported from *Great Britain*, shall be intitled to any Bounty, but such as shall be, at the time of such Exportation, the Property of a Person usually residing in *Great Britain*, of which the Exporter is required to make Oath.

Then a Proviso, in the Act of the 18th Year of his present Majesty, was read; which Enacts, That no *Irish* Linen exported from *Great Britain* shall be intitled to the Bounty, unless the Property of some Person resident in *Great Britain* or *America*.

Then an Account, presented to the House the 8th of May 1749. was read; whereby it appeared, That the whole Quantity of *British* and *Irish* Linen-Cloth exported from *Scotland*, intitled to the Bounty, between *Lady-Day* 1744. and *Lady-Day* 1745. amounted to 70,932 Yards, whereof 65,889 Yards were *British*, and 5043 Yards were *Irish*.

And an Account, presented to the House the 20th of April 1749. was also read; by which it appeared, That the Quantity of *British* and *Irish* coarse Linens, intitled to the Bounty, exported from *England* between *Christmas* 1743. and *Christmas* 1744. was 49,521 Yards of *British*, and 28,255 Yards of *Irish*.

And an Account, presented to the House the 6th of March 1750. was also read; whereby it appeared, That the Quantity of *British* and *Irish* coarse Linen, exported from *Scotland* in the Year 1750. intitled to the Bounty, was 2,192,276 $\frac{3}{4}$ Yards, of which 1,530,466 $\frac{1}{4}$ Yards were *British*, and 661,810 Yards were *Irish*.

An Account, presented to the House the 15th of February 1750. was also read; whereby it appeared, That the Quantity of *British* and *Irish* coarse Linens, exported from *England* in the Year 1750. intitled to the Bounty, was 1,329,906 $\frac{1}{4}$ Yards, whereof 588,874 $\frac{1}{4}$ Yards were *British*, and 741,032 Yards were *Irish*.

Then Part of an Act of the Parliament of *Ireland*, the 15 H. VII. for laying a Duty of 5 per Cent. upon all Goods, was read;

read; whereby a Duty of 12 d. per Pound is laid upon every Twenty Shillings worth of Goods brought into, or carried out of *Ireland*, Wine and Oil only excepted.

Then several Clauses in an Act of the Parliament of *Ireland*, passed in the 14th and 15th Year of *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the Subsidy of Poundage, and granting a Subsidy of Tonage, and other Sums of Money, unto his Royal Majesty, his Heirs and Successors; the same to be paid upon Merchandizes imported and exported into, or out of, the Kingdom of Ireland, according to a Book of Rates thereunto annexed*; were read; whereby it was provided, That all Silks, and Silk Manufactures, imported into the Kingdom of *Ireland*, from any foreign Parts, otherwise than from the Kingdom of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*, should pay one entire Third Part more, over and above the Rates imposed and set by the Book of Rates therein mentioned:

And that all Foreign Commodities, except Wines and Tobacco, and Commodities from the *English* Plantations, imported into the Kingdom of *Ireland* by any of his Majesty's Subjects from any Parts beyond the Seas, other than from *England* and *Wales*, there shall be paid One-third more on Subsidy, over and above the Subsidy payable for the same in the Book of Rates above-mentioned.

Then an Account, presented to the House the 15th of March 1737. was read; whereby it appeared, That the Quantity of *Irish* Linen, imported into *England* in the Year 1728. was 3,700,468 Yards. And by a Report from the Commissioners and Trustees for improving Fisheries and Manufactures in *Scotland* (which was presented to the House upon the 20th of January 1740.) it also appeared, That 2,183,977 $\frac{1}{2}$ Yards of Linen-Cloth, of all Denominations, were made and stamped in *Scotland*, for publick Sale, in the said Year 1728.

By, another Account presented to the House upon the 12th of May 1749. it appeared, That 6,545,368 Yards of *Irish* Linen were imported into *England* in the Year 1748. And by another Account, presented to the House upon the 28th of April 1749. it appeared, That 7,353,098 $\frac{1}{8}$ Yards of Linen-Cloth, were stamped in *Scotland* in the said Year 1748.

And it appeared by an Account presented to your Committee from the Commissioners of the Customs, That 9,388,059 Yards of *Irish* Linen had been imported in *England* between *Christmas* 1748. and *Christmas* 1749.: And that 9,072,239 Yards had been imported between *Christmas* 1749. and *Christmas* 1750.

Then Mr. Todd, being examined, said, That he was a Manager for the *British* Linen Corporation at *Edinburgh*; and he knows that

that Quantities of *Scotch* Yarn, are yearly exported from *Scotland* to *Ireland*; but does not know, that such Yarn pays any Duty.

Being cross-examined, he said, That Yarn has been likewise brought from *Scotland* to *Manchester*, and other Parts of *England*; and that the Quantities, as he apprehends, are considerable, which have raised the Price of Yarn in *Scotland*. But he afterwards said, That the advanced Price of Yarn in *Scotland* was partly owing to the Increase of the Manufacture there.

That the Yarn exported from *Scotland* to *Ireland* is fine Yarn, and not fit to be used in Ozenbrigs, or in the Bounty-Linen; though perhaps some little of it may be used in the finest Sorts of Linens, whereon Bounties are granted.

That he never knew nor heard of any Linen-Yarn imported into *Scotland* from *Ireland*, nor did he ever hear of any Persons in *Scotland* exporting *Scotch* Yarn to be worked up in *Ireland*; but he knows Two or Three People in *Scotland*, whose sole Business it is to purchase Yarn there, in order to send it to *Ireland*.

Being asked, If Yarn had not been much dearer since the granting the Bounties? he said, The Price had been remarkably raised for Three or Four Years past: That though he believes there had been bad Crops of Flax for Three or Four Years last in *Ireland*, *Scotland*, and every-where else, which must certainly raise the Price in some Degree; yet he does not think the Advance is to be attributed to that Scarcity; for that they grow very little in *Scotland*, and the Price of Yarn is higher or lower, in proportion to the Demand.

And by an Account of the Quantity and Duty of statutable and unstatutable Linen-Yarn, exported out of *Ireland* to *Great Britain* for 20 Years, ending the 25th of *March* 1750. produced likewise to your Committee, it appeared, that the Quantity of the said Yarn imported into *Great Britain*, on a Medium, for the first 14 Years of that Period, amounted to 16,307 C. annually, and for the last Six Years to 23,570 C. upon a Medium of each Year: And that the Quantity of *Irish* Yarn imported into *Great Britain* in the Year 1748. was 19,418 C. in the Year 1749. 21,694 C. 0 Q. 20 L. and in the Year 1750. 22,373 C. 0 Q. 5 L. And the said Account is annexed in the Appendix, No. IV.

Then the Agent for the Petitioners produced to your Committee an Abstract made from the Accounts of Cotton laid before the Committee; by which it appeared, That the Medium of Cotton-Wool imported into *England* in 1743. 1744. and 1745. was 1,372,624 Pounds Weight each Year: And that the Cotton-Wool imported in the Years 1746. 1747. 1748. and 1749. was, upon a Medium of each Year, 2,568,894 Pounds Weight; the

Quantities

Quantities re-exported being in both Cases deducted. The said Account is annexed in the Appendix, No. V.

The Right Honourable *Arthur Hill* informed your Committee, That great Sums of Money have been given by the Linen-Board in *Ireland*, for the Encouragement of the Culture and Raising of Flax; and that it has been the constant Endeavour of that Board to spread the Linen-Manufacture throughout the whole Kingdom, particularly in the Places where it has not been before established; for which Purpose great Quantities of Flax-seed have been distributed in the Province of *Munster* at the Expence of the said Board, who at the same time gave publick Notice, that they would purchase all the Seed that should be raised, at a certain Price: That they had likewise been at great Expence for 20 Years past, in purchasing Wheels, Reels, and other Utensils for Spinning, and a Fund of 2000 l. a Year was appointed for encouraging the raising Flax, and purchasing of spinning Utensils, in the Three Provinces where the Linen-Manufacture had not been introduced: And that a greater Sum than that has been yearly expended for those Purposes.

And being asked, If the 2000 l. he mentioned was not applicable to the Purchase of Wheels and Reels only? he says, He believes some Looms have been bought out of that Fund; but the greatest Part of it is expended in Wheels and Reels.

That, in consequence of this, the Trade has been somewhat extended in the Province of *Munster*, but much more in the Province of *Connought*, where great Quantities of Yarn have been made; and he apprehends, the first Introduction of the Linen-Manufacture into any Part must be by the Spinning of coarse Yarn; and that he apprehends the Premiums given on Ozenbrigs have been an Encouragement for Women to go into that Species of Spinning, as the Quantities of Yarn brought to the publick Hall in *Dublin*, and the Account produced to the Committee, sufficiently shew.

That the Linen-Board have been at considerable Expence in bringing over Persons to *Ireland*, who understand the Cultivation and Dressing of Flax: And it has been the Inclination of that Board, not only in that, but in every other Instance, to give all possible Encouragement to the Spinning-Trade; which has apparently had the desired Effect, the Spinning-Trade being increased throughout the whole Kingdom.

That the Trustees have established Spinning-Schools, at the Request of several Gentlemen, in divers Parts of the Kingdom; and that he hardly ever knew a Request of that Kind refused; in which Schools several young Women are employed under the

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Direction

Direction of a Mistress, for the Space of One Year, during which time they are allowed One Penny a Day, and supplied with Wheels and other Utensils at the Expence of the Board: And, at the Expiration of the Year, their vacant Places are supplied by others; and every Woman, at going out of the School, has a Wheel given her at the Expence of the Board.

That foreign Flax being dear, the Linen-Board imported 7000 Barrels of Flax-seed to distribute at half Price; and last Year, on account of the Scarcity and Dearth of Flax in *Ireland*, they imported 100 Ton to sell out in small Parcels at Prime Cost.

Being cross-examined, he was asked, Whether the Encouragement for the Cultivation of Flax had reduced the Price of Yarn? He said, He believed it had not; but, on the contrary, the Price had been much raised for the last Four or Five Years: But that he apprehends the Advance of Price is occasioned by the great Quantities exported to *Manchester*.

Being asked, Whether the Linen-Manufactures were not in general finer before the Bounties were granted than since? he said, He did not apprehend they were; because the Manufacture of coarse Linens never took place in the Counties where the fine ones were made; and that the Witness himself endeavoured to engage some of his own Tenants in the coarse Manufacture, but could not prevail with any of them who were employed in the Manufacture of fine Linen, to undertake it.

Being asked, Whether the Increase of the Manufacture since the granting of the Bounties, had not been chiefly in the coarse Linens? he said, He believed both the Manufacture of fine and coarse was increased, but admitted, that the Increase had been much greater, in proportion, on the coarse.

That the Premiums have introduced the Linen-Manufactures into those Counties, where, without that Encouragement, they would never have arrived: And that the Motive for granting those Bounties was to engage the Persons who had been employed in the Woollen-Manufacture to undertake the weaving of Linen, in Compliance with the Inclinations of the *English*, which has been the chief Object of the Board ever since the Witness has been a Member thereof, which is near 24 Years.

And to shew, that large Quantities of Linen-Yarn, bought up in *Scotland* by the Manufacturers of *Manchester*, hath raised the Price of Linen Yarn in *Scotland*; and that large Premiums are annually distributed by the Trustees, under the Authority of his Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to encourage the Growth of Flax, and Spinning of Yarn, and the manufacturing the same into Linen Cloth;

Part

Part of the before-mentioned Report of the Trustees for improving of Fisheries and Manufactures in *Scotland*, presented to the House the 20th of *January* 1746, was read; a Copy of which is annexed in the Appendix, No. VI.

Mr. *Pontbieu* said, That he is concerned in the Importation of raw Linen-Yarn from *Germany*; and produced to your Committee an Account of the Price he paid for such Yarn in *Germany* for 12 Years last past, exclusive of Charges and Duty here; by which it appeared, That the Price of Yarn began to rise about 6 Years ago; that from the Year 1739. to the Year 1743. the Prices were much alike; in the Year 1744. it rose about 15 per Cent. at which Price it has continued for the last Six Years; but there is a Fluctuation in the Exchange, which may in some measure affect it. Which Account is annexed in the Appendix, No. VII. And he said, That this Account relates only to *Hamburg* Yarn, and *Silesia* Inkle; and that he cannot tell the Price of Yarn at *Dantzick*, or up the *Baltick*.

Being further examined, he said, That he believes there are several Markets, where coarse Yarn may be purchased at 8d. or 8d. $\frac{1}{2}$ a Pound; but that the Merchants have been discouraged from importing it on Account of the high Duty: That, about Eight or Nine Years ago, he imported an Hundred thousand Weight every Year, and now don't import above an Eighth Part of that Quantity; the advance of the Price of Yarn in *Germany*, and the additional Duty of 5 per Cent. on Dry Goods, in 1748. having thrown us quite out of the Trade; but that if the Duty on coarse Yarn was reduced to a Halfpenny a Pound, the Importation would increase; and he makes no Doubt, but that Encouragement would be sufficient to enlarge it to Seven or Eight times the present Quantity: In which Case he thinks the Manufacturers might be supplied with coarse Yarn at 8d. or 8d. $\frac{1}{2}$ a Pound; though it would be something difficult at first, because the *British* Merchants have discouraged the Manufacture, by informing their Correspondents abroad, that they could not take their coarse Yarn; and that, if the Duty on White Yarn was reduced to 3d. it would increase the Importation of it to double or treble the Quantity.

Being asked, If there was not a coarser Sort of Yarn than that of Nine Pounds to the Bundle, which was the coarsest Sort mentioned in his Account? he said, He had imported some of 11 lb. which would have sold for less than 8d. a Pound.

Being asked, Whether the Yarn mentioned in the Account delivered in by him was such as was used at *Manchester*? he said,

said, Some of it was; but that in general, the Yarn worked up there was coarser.

That several Reasons may be given for the Advance of the Price of Yarn: The Badness of the Crop of Flax, the Driness of the Season, and the Wars in *Silesia*; and that when the King of *Prussia* entered *Silesia*, those Goods rose 20 per Cent.; and though he does not deal in Flax, yet he does not doubt but the Badness of the Crops must have increased the Value of that Commodity.

Mr. *John Johnson* said, That the Price of Flax at *Petersburgh*, in July 1748. was 15 Rubles a Perchet, which is about the 10th Part of a Ton; and, in the Year 1750. it was first 18 Rubles, and in Two or Three Months rose to 24 Rubles a Perchet: That he never bought any Flax but at those times: That the first was sold at *Dublin* in the Year 1748. from 37 to 40 s. a Hundred Weight: That, in the Year 1749. he sent a Cargo thither, which sold from 44 to 50 s. a Hundred Weight; and that his last Cargo, which cost from 18 to 20 Rubles a Perchet at *Petersburgh*, is now selling in *Ireland*, as he is informed, at 44 s. a Hundred Weight.

Mr. *William Butler* said, That Twelve-headed *Narva* Flax, sent from hence to *Ireland*, is 20 per Cent. dearer than it was Two Years ago; and that he believes more Flax has been exported to *Ireland* within Two Years last past, than for Five, or even for Seven Years before.

Being asked, Whether Flax was not dearer in 1745-6. than at present, he says, He believes it was much the same Price, but is not certain: That, from November 1747. to April 1748. Twelve-headed *Narva* Flax was sold in *Dublin* from 44 to 45 s. per Hundred Weight: From the 18th of May 1748. to August the 6th 1748. from 42 s. to 34 s. 6d. and remained about that Price till the Year 1749.; in the Year 1750. it sold from 42 to 44 s. per Hundred Weight; and in this present Year 1751. from 45 to 47 s. per Hundred Weight.

And being asked, To what he attributed the Rise of the Price of Flax for the last Two Years? he said, It might proceed from a Variety of Causes: That he apprehends One great Cause to have been the Manufacture of Sail-cloth here: That the Demand to *Ireland* has been very great; for that the Witness believes 1000 Tons have been exported thither, whereas the whole Importation does not amount to more than 2000; and that the great Rise of Flax is wholly owing to the Demand from *Ireland*, without which it would have been 20 per Cent. cheaper: That he has heard from his Correspondents, that they have had bad

Crops

Crops of Flax in *Ireland* and *Lincolnshire*, but has heard no Complaints of that Nature from *Germany* or *Russia*.

Mr. *Robert Livesay* said, He lived at *Manchester*; but that his Business, which is a Trader in *Manchester* Linens and Cottons, is carried on at *Blackburn*; and that he knows nothing of any Monopoly set up, or attempted to be set up, of Raw Cotton: That he can't say, but he imagined a Set of Gentlemen did monopolize it; but he was mistaken; and he finds large Quantities have been exported to *France* and *Holland*: That the Persons who, he heard, had monopolized the Raw Cotton, were Mr. *Touchet* and Mr. *Hague*; and don't remember any others.

Being asked, On what Evidence he disbelieved this? he said, He found they had not bought such large Quantities as, he apprehended, could have an Effect on the Market.

That the Reasons why he thought they had monopolized were, That they bought large Quantities; but whether that could be called a Monopoly, he could not say: But his Reason for believing it to be one was, the Advance of Cotton: And that he can't say, but Mr. *Touchet* and Mr. *Hague* buying large Quantities of Cotton, did affect the Market: That he never knew the Quantity they bought; but believes it to be considerable.

Being asked, At what Time he thought so? he said, About Two Years ago; though he does not know, Whether they bought larger Quantities then, than before; but his Reason for thinking it a Monopoly was, the great Dearness and Scarceness of the Commodity, and the great Plenty in their Hands; and that he believes they might buy more at that time than they consumed in Trade.

Being asked, What made him change his Opinion, and how long it was since? he said, Since he came to Town, when he examined the Exports, and found great Quantities exported to *Holland*; but he don't know whether it was exported by Messieurs *Hague* and *Touchet*; but that they sell out their Cotton to the Manufacturers.

Being asked, What was his Reason for saying, He was mistaken, when he thought Messieurs *Hague* and *Touchet* concerned in a Monopoly? he said, He did not know of any Exports; and, from the Want of Cotton in the Country, they commonly thought it a Monopoly.

That he believes Mr. *Touchet* bought great Quantities of Cotton, because he was informed so; that he can't recollect by whom, but believes it was the general Notion at *Manchester*; and he had no other Reason for thinking so; and he presumes,

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that Opinion was founded on the Quantities they had in *London*.

Being asked, Who it was that informed him, when he came to Town, of the great Exports of Cotton? he said, Mr. *Touchet*: That he had not seen it from the Custom-house Books, but only from a Paper Mr. *Touchet* shewed him; and that he has no other Reason to believe the Exports are large.

Being asked, How Mr. *Touchet* and he came to have this Conversation? he said, That, falling into Company together, they naturally fell into Conversation about this Application to Parliament: That Mr. *Touchet* never mentioned his (the Witness) being to give Evidence against him; and the Paper of Exports was on the Table: That this happened in a Publick-house near the House of Commons; and that there were Five or Six Gentlemen of the Trade there; and that the Witness, being summoned to attend this Committee, went there to wait.

Being asked, Whether he was summoned by Mr. *Touchet*? he said, He thought so; which made him go to Mr. *Touchet's* House.

Being asked, What Discourse passed between Mr. *Touchet* and him? he said, That he went to Mr. *Touchet's* Dwelling-house, and staid till he came in: That he told Mr. *Touchet*, He supposed he had summoned him, and that he was ready to wait on him; but not a Word passed about his having bought great Quantities of Cotton: That he did not inform him of the Exports of Cotton till they came to the Publick-house; and then the Paper was on the Table; and that he believes Mr. *Touchet* put the Paper into his Hand, to shew the Exports of Cotton: That he believes something was said of the Dearness of Cotton; upon which he was shewn this Paper.

That he does not recollect, what Proportion the Exports bear to the Home-Consumption.

Being asked, Whether, if the Exports were ever so large, how that would prove Mr. *Touchet* did, or did not, ingross? and whether, If Mr. *Touchet* should buy up all for Home-Consumption, that would not be ingrossing? he said, That if they had had Plenty of Cotton, and it had been at a lower Price, he should not have thought any such thing.

Being asked, Whether he ever heard, that Messieurs *Touchet* and *Hague* had cleared 20 or 30,000 *l.* by Cotton? he said, He had not.

And being asked, Whether he did not believe in his Conscience, that Messieurs *Touchet* and *Hague* bought up a larger Quantity of Cotton than they used to do, in order to sell it to

the Manufacturers at a more advanced Price than usual? he said, He did believe so; and that buying a larger Quantity than usual, to sell out at an advanced Price, is generally believed to be monopolizing.

Being asked, Whether, in a large Trade, if he saw a Commodity advancing, he would not buy a larger Quantity than usual? he said, He would.

Mr. *Touchet*, being admitted to be heard, in order to exculpate himself from the Charge of monopolizing Cotton, produced to your Committee an Account of all the Cotton imported, and bought in *London* by him for Six Years last past. And

Mr. *Samuel Gardiner*, being examined, said, That he is Book-keeper to Mr. *Touchet*; and that he made up the said Account from Mr. *Touchet's* Books; and that the same is the Whole of the Cotton the said Mr. *Touchet* has bought and imported.

Being asked, If the said Account contained the Quantity of Cotton bought by Mr. *Hague*? he said, It did not; but it includes Mr. *Touchet's* Share of what Mr. *Hague* and he bought.

The said Account, together with an Account of the whole Quantity imported into *England* in the Years 1744. 1745. 1746. 1747. 1748. and 1749. by which it appears, what proportion the Quantity of Cotton bought and imported by Mr. *Touchet* bears to the whole Quantity imported; which is as follows:

| | Quantity imported | by Mr. <i>Touchet</i> . |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| In 1745. | 1,469,523 lb. | 170,786 lb. |
| 1746. | 2,264,808 | 418,904 |
| 1747. | 2,224,869 | 470,643 |
| 1748. | 4,852,966 | 200,026 |
| 1749. | 1,658,365 | 171,716 |

Mr. *Touchet* being asked, Whether this Account contains the Quantity of Cotton he buys at *Manchester*? he said, That he buys none there, but his Brothers do, whom he is concerned with; but that they are concerned in about 20 *West-India* Ships.

Being asked, Whether, in the Years 1746. and 1747. at which time he appears, by his Account, to have bought the greatest Quantities of Cotton, Cotton was not raised? he said, It was, but not so much as in 1748. and 1749.

That the Reason why his Imports were so large was, That, the Price of Cotton being advanced on Account of the War, he bought in the Year 1746. as he remembers, Two Prize-Ships laden with Cotton, in the *Mediterranean*, for 15,000 *l.* which he imported

imported into *England*, and which he thinks greatly contributed to keep the Price of Cotton so low as it was; and that publick Sales are so frequent, that it is impossible to monopolize Cotton.

Being asked the Question, he said, He believes Mr. *Hague* did not buy near so much Cotton as he in the Years 1746. and 1747; and that he sold Mr. *Hague* great Quantities then: That there never was any Partnership between Mr. *Hague* and him, except as Two Merchants may not care to run the Risque of a large Parcel of Goods, and so buy them jointly: That, at the First Commencement of the Account, he bought more than Mr. *Hague*; but believes, for the last Three Years, Mr. *Hague* has bought more than him.

Then a Clause in an Act of the 15th of *Charles* the Second, Cap. 7. Sect. 6. was read; whereby it is Enacted, That, after the 25th of *March* 1664. no Commodities, of the Growth, Produce, or Manufacture of *Europe*, shall be imported into any of his Majesty's Plantations, except the same shall be laden or shipped in *England*, under the Penalty of the Loss of such Commodities.

Then a Clause of an Act of the 3d and 4th of *Queen Anne*, Cap. 8. Sect. 1. was read; whereby, after reciting the said Clause of the 15th of *Charles* the Second, recites, That forasmuch as the Protestant Interest in her Majesty's Kingdom of *Ireland* ought to be supported, by giving the utmost Encouragement to the Linen-Manufactures of that Kingdom, in tender Regard to her Majesty's good Protestant Subjects of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, and for the further Encouragement of the Linen-Manufactures thereof, the said Clause enacts, That, from the 24th of *June* 1705. any Natives of *England* or *Ireland* may lade, on board a Ship in any Port of *England* or *Ireland*, any White or Brown Linen-Cloth, of the Manufacture of *Ireland*, and transport the same into any Lands, Islands, Plantations, Colonies, Territories, or Places, and there freely traffick with and vend the same; any thing in the said Act of the 15th of *Charles* the Second to the contrary notwithstanding.

And also a Clause of an Act of the 10th of *Queen Anne*, Cap. 19. Sect. 66. was read; whereby it is enacted, That Printed, Painted, Stained, or Dyed Linens, shall pay 15 per Cent. *ad Valorem* on Importation into *Great Britain*; which Act was to continue in Force for 32 Years, and was, by an Act of the 3d of *George* the First, Cap. 7. Sect. 1. made perpetual.

Then a printed Paper, intituled, *Premiums given by the Linen-Board of Ireland, for the Encouragement of that Manufactory*, was

was read; and a Book, intituled, *Gentleman and Citizen's Almanack for the Year 1749.* printed at *Dublin*, was read; whereby it appeared, That the Premiums were larger in 1746, than in 1749. The said Paper, and an Extract from the said Book, are annexed in the Appendix, N^o VIII. and IX.

Then a printed News-Paper, intituled, *George Faulkner, The Dublin Journal, from Saturday, February the 23d, to Tuesday, February the 26th, 1750-1.* was produced to your Committee; out of which the following Advertisement was read; viz.

LINEN BOARD.

The Trustees of the Linen Manufacture have come to a Resolution, to give no further Premiums on the manufacturing or exporting of coarse Linens called *Osnabrigs*.

Signed by Order,

Dublin-Castle, the 18th
of *February* 1750.

Arthur Newburgh.

Then, by way of Reply, the following Evidence was produced on behalf of the first-mentioned Petitioners.

To shew, that a Duty of 12s. is paid in *Ireland* upon the Importation of every 100 Ells of coarse *British* Striped and Chequed Linen;

Two Acts, passed in the 14th and 15th Years of *King Charles* the Second, were read; whereby it appeared, That the Duties of 6s. and 6s. were by the said Acts laid on all *British* Linens imported.

To shew, that the Imports of *Irish* Linens into this Kingdom have not increased, upon a Medium of Years, so much in proportion, since the Bounties were granted, as they did before;

The following Account, extracted from several Accounts presented to the House the 15th of *March* 1737. and the 12th of *May* 1749.; and from a Report made to the House the 11th of *March* 1744.; was produced on behalf of the first-mentioned Petitioners:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| From 1727. to 1733. inclusive, the Im- | } 28,341,068 Yards |
| ports of <i>Irish</i> Linens into <i>England</i> amounted to | |
| And from 1734. to 1740. inclusive | - 41,798,628 Yards |

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Which

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Which was an Increase of - - 1,921,222 Yards
for each Year.

From the Year 1742. to the Year 1748. } 43,035,999 Yards
inclusive, the Amount was - - -

Which was only an Increase of - - 178,053 Yards
in each Year.

The Bounties were paid on Exportation of *Irish* Linens from
England in 1746. 1747. and 1748. for 672,648 Yards, each
Year; which, upon a Medium, exceeded the said annual In-
crease 494,595 Yards, each Year.

And to shew that the Imports into this Kingdom of coarse
Foreign Linens have been greater, since the Bounties were
granted, than before; and that the Consumption of those
Linens in this Kingdom has greatly increased;

Two Accounts of the Imports and Exports of *East-Country*
Narrow, *Germany* Narrow, *Ozenbrigs*, and *Russia* Narrow, from
1737. to 1748. distinguishing each Year, presented to the House
the 20th of *April* 1749. were produced.

And an Extract of the Imports and Exports, in the Two first
and Two last Years mentioned in the said Accounts, was pro-
duced by the First Petitioners; and is as followeth:

Imported into *England* in 1738. and 1739.

| | Ells. | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>East-Country</i> Narrow | 166,400 | |
| <i>Germany</i> Narrow | 30,192,240 | |
| <i>Ozenbrigs</i> | 214,235 | Ells. |
| | | 30,572,875 |

In 1747. and 1748.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>East-Country</i> Narrow | 330,500 | |
| <i>Germany</i> Narrow | 30,998,420 | |
| <i>Ozenbrigs</i> | 89,326 | |
| | | 31,418,246 |

Exported

[35]

Exported from *England* in 1738. and 1739.

| | Ells. | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>East-Country</i> Narrow | 126,900 | |
| <i>Germany</i> Narrow | 6,829,800 | |
| <i>Ozenbrigs</i> | 157,648 | Ells. |
| | | 7,114,348 |

In 1747. and 1748.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>East-Country</i> Narrow | 80,600 | |
| <i>Germany</i> Narrow | 6,510,480 | |
| <i>Ozenbrigs</i> | 70,552 | |
| | | 6,661,632 |

Increase in the Imports, in 1747. } 835,371
and 1748. - - - - -

Decrease in the Exports, in 1747. } 452,716
and 1748. - - - - -

Remains for Home-Consumption, in }
1747. and 1748. more than in 1738. } 1,288,087
and 1739. - - - - -

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APPENDIX.

PREMIUMS

GIVEN BY THE

Linen Board of *IRELAND*,

FOR THE

ENCOURAGEMENT

OF THAT

MANUFACTORY.

Presented by Mr. *TOUCHET*.N^o. I.

LINEN BOARD.

THE Trustees of the Linen-Manufacture are resolved to continue Premiums on coarse Linens, with some Alterations suited to the present State of that growing Manufacture.

They therefore propose to give to such Person or Persons as shall, after the First Day of *November* next, manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, the greatest Quantities of sound merchantable Linen Cloth, of the Breadth of Twenty-six Inches, or upwards, made of cleaned Yarn, and not less in Value than Six-pence by the Yard, being such as is fit for the Use of the Servants and Negroes in the *British* Colonies and Plantations, and shall cause the same to be exported to *Great Britain*, or to any other Part of his Majesty's Dominions in *Europe* or *America*, on or before the 25th Day of *December* in the Year 1750. the following PREMIUMS, on the following Conditions; provided that the Quantities, so

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manufactured and exported, be not less than those which correspond to each Premium, according to the following Table:

| | Sums. | No. of Yards. |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------|
| One Premium | £. 300 | 60000 |
| One Premium | 250 | 50000 |
| One Premium | 200 | 40000 |
| One Premium | 150 | 30000 |
| Two Premiums, each | 100 | 20000 |
| Four Premiums, each | 50 | 10000 |
| Eight Premiums, each | 25 | 5000 |
| Ten Premiums, each | 20 | 4000 |
| Twenty Premiums, each | 10 | 2000 |
| Twenty Premiums, each | 5 | 1000 |

CONDITIONS.

I. ALL Cloths for these Premiums must be proved, upon Oath, to have been made entirely of Yarn spun in this Kingdom, and, all other things being equal, the Preference shall be given to Cloths, the Yarn of which shall be spun from Flax growing in this Kingdom.

II. Strong well-wrought Cloths shall have a Preference before a greater Quantity of flighter, and not so well-wrought Cloths, provided that the lesser Quantity of better Cloths be sufficient to intitle the Manufacturers to the Premium applied for, according to the above Table.

III. All Cloths manufactured, in order to obtain any of the above Premiums, shall be viewed, examined, and stamped, by an Officer appointed by the Board, publickly in the *Linen-hall* in *Dublin*, or in some publick Place in the Port-Towns from whence they are to be exported; and they shall be presented to the said Officer, *not lapp'd, but in Folds*.

IV. All Persons who have large Quantities of Linen to be viewed, shall give 15 Days Notice to the Trustees, or their Secretary, of their Intention to export any Quantity of such Linen, not less than *Four thousand Yards*, to the end that an Officer may be sent to view, examine, and stamp the same, as aforesaid, at that Port from whence such Linens are to be exported, as aforesaid; and they who have smaller Quantities must give the like Notice,

Notice, to the end that their Cloths may be viewed, examined, and stamped, at the same time, otherwise they must bring their Cloths to the *Linen-Hall* in *Dublin*.

V. Indented Patterns shall be sent up to the Secretary of the Linen Board of each Piece, and the full Breadth of the Cloth, marked and numbered in the Piece and Pattern alike, before any Officer be sent to any Port whatsoever to view, examine, and stamp Linens.

VI. No Person shall be intitled to more than one Premium on those coarse Linens; and therefore,

N. B. All Candidates shall be strictly examined, upon Oath, as to their having really and *bona fide* manufactured, or caused to be manufactured, the Linens by them entered and exported, as aforesaid; particularly whether any other Person be at all concerned or interested in the said Cloths; and if, upon such Examination, it shall appear, that the said Cloths, or any Part of them, were manufactured covertly, by or for the Use of such Person or Persons as in their own, or in any other Name, have applied for any other Premium, all such Persons, as well they to whom such Cloths are found to belong, as they in whose Names they are entered, shall be for that Time absolutely incapable of any Premium, although, before the Discovery of such Fraud, they may have appeared to be intitled to it.

VII. Any Number of Manufacturers, joined in fair Partnership previous to the manufacturing these Linens, are to be taken as one Person.

VIII. Authentick Certificates of the Exportation must be produced from the Collectors of the respective Ports, at which the several Cloths have been exported.

IX. No Person is to be admitted a Candidate for any of these Premiums, who is under a Contract with the Linen Board, to make and export any Quantity of those Cloths, for which these Premiums are designed.

All

All Persons may be furnished with Samples of Cloths which are fit for the Use of Negroes, &c. at the *Linen-Office* in the Castle of *Dublin*.

Signed by Order,

DUBLIN-CASTLE, the
7th of April 1749.

ARTH. NEWBURGH.

L I N E N B O A R D .

THE Trustees of the Linen-Manufacture, to encourage the raising and manufacturing of Flax, the Produce of this Kingdom, have agreed to give the following Premiums; *viz.*

I. That all Persons who shall, from the Date hereof, to the First of *October* 1752. lodge in the Stores of the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture, any Quantity of scutched Flax, not less than Eight hundred Weight, shall receive Ten Shillings for every Hundred of Flax so lodged, provided the Officers appointed by the Trustees shall estimate the said Flax to be worth not less than Thirty-five Shillings *per* Hundred, and provided the said Person produce proper Certificates, that he had, under the Culture of Flax, a Quantity of Ground, not less than Two Acres, and provided he makes Oath, that the said Flax is the Produce of the Land so certified, and that he has never received the Premium for it.

II. That all Persons who shall, from and to the time aforesaid, lodge in the Stores any Quantity not less than the Weight aforesaid, shall receive Eight Shillings for every Hundred Weight so lodged, provided the Officers shall estimate the said Flax to be worth not less than Thirty Shillings *per* Hundred, and provided the Certificate and Oath above-mentioned be also complied with.

III. That all Persons who shall form, and to the time aforesaid, lodge in the Stores aforesaid, any Quantity not less than the Weight aforesaid, shall receive Six Shillings for every Hundred so lodged, provided the Officers shall estimate the said Flax to be worth not less than Twenty-five Shillings *per* Hundred, and provided

vided the Certificate and Oath above-mentioned be also complied with.

Note, It is required, that the Quantity of Ground, on which the Flax grew, shall be certified by Two credible Persons in the Neighbourhood, who have viewed the same whilst the Flax was growing thereon; and that the Name of the Townland, Barony, and Country, in which the said Land lies, shall be specified in the Certificate; which Certificate shall be signed in the Presence of some neighbouring Justice of the Peace.

That the Owner of the Flax shall make Oath before Two neighbouring Justices of the Peace, that the said Flax is his own Property, and is the Produce of the Land certified and described as above; and that the Land was in his own Occupation at the time of sowing the Flax.

That the Person who delivers the Flax at the Stores shall make Oath, that he received the same from the Person who has made the above-mentioned Oath.

N. B. Such Persons who intend to apply for the above Premiums, may be supplied with the proper Form of the Oath and Certificate, by addressing for the same to *Arthur Newburgh, Esq;* in the Castle of *Dublin*.

Signed by Order,

DUBLIN-CASTLE, the
7th of April 1749.

ARTH. NEWBURGH.

L I N E N

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LINEN - BOARD.

THE TRUSTEES of the Linen Manufacture, finding the good Effects of the Premiums granted upon coarse Linens, have resolved to extend them further: They therefore propose to give such Persons as shall, after the First Day of May next, manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, the greatest Quantity of sound, strong, thick, Linen-Cloth, of both or either of the Kinds herein after described, made of high white Flaxen Yarn, without any Mixture of Tow-Yarn, and thoroughly well bleached, and shall cause the same to be exported to *Great Britain*, or any Part of his Majesty's Dominions in *Europe*, or *America*, between the First Day of May aforesaid, and the First Day of November 1750. the following PREMIUMS, on the following Conditions, provided that the Quantities of each kind, so exported by the respective Candidates, be not less than the Number of Yards corresponding to each Premium in the following Tables:

Premiums on coarse Sheeting, which must be a Cloth of Eight hundred, or upwards, and of the full Breadth of Forty Inches and an Half, or upwards, when bleached.

| | Sums. | No. of Yards. |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------|
| One Premium ————— | £. 300 | 30000 |
| One Premium ————— | 250 | 25000 |
| One Premium ————— | 200 | 20000 |
| Two Premiums, each ————— | 150 | 15000 |
| Two Premiums, each ————— | 100 | 10000 |
| Five Premiums, each ————— | 50 | 5000 |

Premiums on finer Sheeting, which must be a Cloth of Twelve hundred, or upwards, and of the full Breadth of One Ell, or upwards, when bleached.

| | Sums. | No. of Yards. |
|---------------------------|-------|---------------|
| One Premium ————— | 300 | 18000 |
| One Premium ————— | 250 | 15000 |
| One Premium ————— | 200 | 12000 |
| Two Premiums, each ————— | 150 | 9000 |
| Two Premiums, each ————— | 100 | 6000 |
| Five Premiums, each ————— | 50 | 3000 |

C O N -

[43]

CONDITIONS.

I. ALL Cloths entered and exported, in order to intitle the Persons entering and exporting to any of the above Premiums, must be thoroughly bleached, without using Rubbing-Boards or Rubbing-Milns: And to this and every other Point that shall be thought necessary, the respective Candidates shall be examined strictly upon Oath.

II. All Cloths, as aforesaid, must be brought to the *Linen-hall* in *Dublin* (not lapped, but in the Folds), to be there viewed, examined, and stamped, by an Officer appointed by the Trustees, for that Purpose; and this View, Examination, and Stamping, shall be publick in the *Linen-Hall*.

III. All thin, ill-woven, or ill-bleached Goods, and all that shall be found deficient in Breadth, or to have the least Mixture of Tow-Yarn, shall be absolutely rejected.

IV. Thick, strong, close, well-wrought Cloths shall intitle the Candidate to a Premium preferably to a greater Quantity of Cloth, less thick and strong, and not so well woven, Provided the smaller Quantity of better Cloth be such as intitles the Candidate to the Premium applied for, according to the above Tables.

V. The same Person may intitle himself to one Premium on the coarser Sheeting, and to another on the finer; but no Person shall be qualified to demand or receive more than one Premium on a Manufacture of the same kind: And therefore

N. B. All Candidates shall be strictly examined, upon Oath, as to their having really and *bona fide* manufactured, or caused to be manufactured, the Linens by them entered, and exported, as above, particularly whether any other Person be at all concerned or interested in the said Cloths; and if, upon Examination, it shall appear, that the said Cloths, or any Part of them, were manufactured covertly, by or for the Use of such Person or Persons, as in their own or any other Name have applied for any other Premium, all such Persons, as well they to whom such Cloths

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Cloths are found to belong, as they in whose Names they are entered, shall be for that time absolutely incapable of any Premium, although, before the Discovery of such Fraud, they may have appeared intitled to it.

VI. Any Number of Manufacturers joined in fair Partnership, previous to the manufacturing these Linens, are to be taken as one Person.

VII. It is expected, that all Candidates shall mark, in the Weaving, the Hundreds and Beares in each Piece.

VIII. Authentick Certificates of the Exportation must be produced from the Collectors of the respective Ports, at which the several Cloths have been exported. Such Persons as intend to apply for any of the above Premiums may be furnished at the Linen-Office, in the Castle of *Dublin*, with Samples of the several Sorts of Cloths which are fit for Sheeting of either kind, and for which Sorts only the above Premiums are intended.

Signed by Order,

DUBLIN-CASTLE, the
7th of April 1749.

ARTHUR NEWBURGH.

N^o. II.

[45]

N^o. II.

Extract of a Letter from Salonica, dated 11 May 1750.

THIS Place produces but Four Sorts of Merchandize, viz. Cotton, Wool, Tobacco, and Wax: The former Article is chiefly exported for *Italy* and *Marseilles*: But this Year a greater Quantity than usual has been shipped off for all Parts; viz. Seven thousand Bales for *Marseilles*, Four thousand D^o. for *Venice*; Three to Three thousand Five hundred for *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, and *Ancona*; and Two hundred and Fifty Bales for *Holland*. This is the First Year that *Salonica* Cotton has been sent direct hence for the North, though it has been often sent from *Leghorn* both for *England* and *Holland*; and, if it meets with Success, will be great Addition to our Trade.

Extract of a Letter from Antigua, dated the 22d of November 1749.

AND we know that *Heyligar* of *Eustatia* has made all the Interest in his Power, amongst the Cotton Islands, to secure as much as ever he can of that Article: Which makes us of Opinion 'twill not be less than 18d. this Year in the *West-Indies*.

M

N^o. III.

N^o III.

THE
PRICES of COTTON
IN
S M T R N A.

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|---|----------------|
| In 1728 | F. 13 | 45 | 80 per Quintal |
| 1729 | 13 | 45 | |
| 1730 | 12 | 40 | |
| 1731 | 12 | 60 | |
| 1732 | 12 | 40 | |
| 1733 | 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ | à F. 14 | |
| 1734 | 16 | | |
| 1735 | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1736 | 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1737 | 14 | | |
| 1738 | 14 | | |
| 1739 | 14 | | |
| 1740 | 17 | à 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| 1741 | 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1742 | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1743 | 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1744 | 19 | à 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| 1745 | 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | lay 17 $\frac{1}{2}$; and rose by the French to F. 21 | |
| 1746 | 19 | | |
| 1747 | 24 $\frac{3}{4}$ | à 25 | |
| 1748 | 25 | | |
| 1749 | 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | |
| 1750 | 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ | the Price made by the French ; and the Dutch paid afterwards F. 38. | |

N^o IV.

N^o IV.

An ACCOUNT of the Quantity and Duty of Statutable and Unstatutable Linen-Yarn, exported out of Ireland to Great Britain, for Twenty Years, ending 25th March 1750. each Year distinguished.

| | Linen-Yarn. | | Duty. |
|------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| | Statutable. | Unstatutable. | |
| 1731 | 13734 3 28 | — 11 0 8 | — 3439 5 7 |
| 1732 | 15309 1 22 | — 34 0 24 | — 3844 9 2 |
| 1733 | 13339 0 3 | — 18 2 18 | — 3344 1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1734 | 18101 0 19 | — 21 0 10 | — 4535 16 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1735 | 15881 1 28 | — 19 1 22 | — 3980 1 9 |
| 1736 | 14695 1 5 | — 48 2 8 | — 3698 2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1737 | 14680 3 5 | — 14 3 6 | — 3677 11 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1738 | 15944 2 3 | — 01 1 0 | — 3986 15 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1739 | 18182 2 16 | — 17 3 0 | — 4554 10 8 |
| 1740 | 18519 0 4 | — 23 3 4 | — 4641 13 0 |
| 1741 | 21640 0 2 | — 16 3 12 | — 5418 8 7 |
| 1742 | 16329 2 28 | — 00 3 24 | — 4082 18 2 |
| 1743 | 14130 2 13 | — 38 2 27 | — 3552 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1744 | 17816 0 17 | — 194 3 14 | — 4551 9 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1745 | 21687 0 3 | — 379 1 22 | — 5611 9 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1746 | 27624 0 12 | — 117 3 8 | — 6964 18 8 |
| 1747 | 28900 2 22 | — 09 3 28 | — 7230 3 3 |
| 1748 | 19399 0 14 | — 18 3 16 | — 4859 4 5 |
| 1749 | 21579 2 23 | — 114 1 27 | — 5452 3 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1750 | 22231 1 20 | — 141 2 15 | — 5628 13 4 |

The Value chargeable by the Book of Rates is, Five Pounds for statutable, and Ten Pounds a Hundred for unstatutable, at One hundred and Twenty Pounds to the Hundred Weight.

The Ports from whence Linen-Yarn is chiefly exported, are, *Londonderry, Belfast, Newry, Drogheda*, and in a less Degree, *Dublin, Dundalk, and Colerain*.—The Port to which such Yarn is exported is *Liverpool*.

The 5l. per Cent. is by the Act of Customs, Anno 1661.—The additional 5l. per Cent. by an Act of the 2 George I. 1717. T. Lill, Ex^t Cust.

N^o V.

N^o V.

An ACCOUNT of the net Quantities of Cotton-Wool imported, into Great-Britain for Seven Years, after a Deduction of the Quantities exported; drawn from the Accounts produced before the Committee.

| Pounds Weight | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1743. | 1,100,841 } Imported. |
| | 31,447 } |
| | 1,132,288 |
| | 40,870 } Exported. |
| | 1,091,418 |
| 1744. | 1,280,804 } Imported. |
| | 602,069 } |
| | 1,882,873 |
| | 182,765 } Exported. |
| | 1,700,108 |
| 1745. | 954,137 } Imported. |
| | 515,386 } |
| | 1,469,523 |
| | 73,172 } Exported. |
| | 1,396,351 |

Which, on a Medium, of these Three Years, amounts to £. 1,372,624 per Annum.

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 1746. | 729,525 } Imported. |
| | 1,535,283 } |
| | 2,264,808 |
| | 73,279 } Exported. |
| | 2,191,529 |

1747.

| Pounds Weight. | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1747. | 841,781 } Imported. |
| | 1,383,088 } |
| | 2,224,869 |
| | 29,438 } Exported. |
| | 2,195,431 |
| 1748. | 3,145,250 } Imported. |
| | 1,707,716 } |
| | 4,852,966 |
| | 291,717 } Exported. |
| | 4,561,249 |
| 1749. | 1,493,300 } Imported. |
| | 165,065 } |
| | 1,658,365 |
| | 330,998 } Exported. |
| | 1,327,367 |

Which, on a Medium, of these last Four Years, amounts to £. 2,568,894 per Annum.

N

N^o VI.

The Report for the Year 1734. P. 193.

IT cannot escape your Majesty's Observation, that the Increase in the Number of Yards is not in this last Year so considerable, as in the former: But then your Trustees apprehend, that is, in a great measure, to be imputed to a very large Exportation of Linen-Yarn, which bears hard upon the Weavers: But as, according to your Trustees Information, 40 or 50,000 Pounds worth of the Yarn, so carried from this Part of the Kingdom, is brought into *England*, and employed in the Manufactures that are carried on there; they cannot suffer themselves to think of any Expedient for preventing it; especially since the Demand for their Yarn increases the Spinning; though it is some Mortification to them, that Parcels of their Yarn are bought up, and exported beyond the Seas.

Report for 1736. P. 219.

The chief Cause of the Decrease they impute to the great Export of their Linen-Yarn to *Manchester*, and other Parts of the North of *England*, to be wrought up with Cottons there; which they can hardly complain of, because it encourages their Spinning, and is a Benefit to the united Kingdom, by preventing the purchasing of Linen-Yarn from Abroad.

Report for 1738. P. 265.

One, and indeed the principal Cause why the making of Linen-Cloth for Sale is not more rapidly extended, is, that very great Quantities of Linen-Yarn are bought up every Year in *Scotland*, to be wrought up with Cotton, and other ways, in *England*, which produces a Scarcity of the very Materials, out of which Linen is made in this Country; infomuch that the Quantity of Yarn, which was usually purchased in *Scotland* for about 2 s. 4 d. Two or Three Years ago, cannot be now bought under 2 s. 7 d. or 2 s. 8 d. And this proves so great a Drawback on the Manufacture of Cloth in this Country, that, did not the Benefit of it redound to the other Part of this your Majesty's Kingdom, your Trustees would find themselves under a Necessity of applying to your Majesty for a Remedy, by Act of Parliament, to this Inconveniency. But as the finding Yarn fit for their Purpose in this Part

Part of the Island may be a Convenience to your Majesty's Subjects in the other; and as the Demand for Yarn from hence must tend to propagate Spinning here; your Trustees have laid aside all Thought of asking for any such Remedy.

Another Cause, why the Manufacturing Yarn into Linen does not make such Progress as were to be wished, is, that great Quantities of Yarn, especially of the finer Sort, are converted into Thread for Foreign, as well as for our own Mercats: And, as the Thread-Manufacture of this Country gains considerable Reputation, your Trustees humbly think it ought rather to be promoted, than discouraged.

It being therefore, in your Trustees Apprehension, improper to attempt to remove any of those Causes, which drain our Mercats of Yarn, and raise the Price of it; whereby the Working up larger Quantities of Linen is prevented; the only Thing, that remains for them to do, is, to try to increase the Quantity of Yarn, so as, if possible, to answer all Demands, by encouraging the Spinning of Flax, where that Art is least known, and consequently most neglected.

Royal Sign Manual.

GEORGE R.

T Rusty and Well-beloved, We greet you well. Having taken under our Royal Consideration your Report made to Us last *Christmas*, and the Proposition therein contained, of publishing and establishing for Three Years, from the said *Christmas*, a Plan for distributing the Moneys applicable to Improvements, in manner following; viz.

| | | | |
|---|------|----|----|
| Item For Premiums, after the Rate of 15 s. | l. | s. | d. |
| per Acre, for 2000 Acres of Ground to be sowed with Lintseed and Hemp-feed, according to Rules and Conditions to be established | 1500 | 0 | 0 |
| For a Salary to a foreign Flax-raiser, at 30 l. per Annum | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| For defraying the Maintenance of 4 young Men instructing to raise and break Flax, at Mr. Hope of Rankeiller's Lint-Mill | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| For Salaries to 12 young Men instructed; or to be instructed, in raising Flax, to be stationed in different Parts of the Country, at 7 l. 10 s. per Annum | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| For erecting Two Heckleries for heckling Flax, at 20 l. per Annum each | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| For | | | |

| | <i>l.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| For instructing 4 young Men in the Art of Heckling, at 4 <i>l.</i> <i>per Annum</i> each | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| For purchasing 4 Sets of Heckles to be given to these young Men when instructed, at 6 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> each Set | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| For a Salary to a Person skilled in the raising, dressing, and heckling of Flax, for surveying and examining the Raisers, Dressers, and Hecklers, at the Places where they shall be stationed | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| For encouraging Spinning-Schools for teaching the Spinning of Flax | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| For Prices to those that shall spin the best Yarn | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| For encouraging 4 Dutch Weavers to perfect Journeymen Weavers, at 40 <i>l.</i> <i>per Annum</i> each | 160 | 0 | 0 |
| For purchasing Dutch Looms with complete Tackle to be given to such Journeymen completed | 190 | 0 | 0 |
| For Salaries to 55 Lappers and Stamp-masters at so many Stations, at 10 <i>l.</i> <i>per Annum</i> each | 550 | 0 | 0 |
| For Prizes to be given at such Stations as the Trustees shall appoint to such Persons as shall work the best Webs of coarse Linen-Cloth, of the Qualities and Sizes by the Trustees to be limited | 212 | 0 | 0 |
| For Salaries to Two general Riding-Officers, at 125 <i>l.</i> <i>per Annum</i> each | 250 | 0 | 0 |
| For a Salary to a skilful Person, who shall visit the several manufacturing Counties, and there instruct the Stamp-masters as well as the Weavers, the best Method of washing, sorting, flaying, and weaving of their Yarn | 130 | 0 | 0 |
| For a Salary to the Warehouse-keeper of the Cambrick | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| For defraying the Expence of carrying on Prosecutions against such as transgress the Laws concerning the Linen and Hempen Manufactures | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| For procuring Models of the best Looms, and other Instruments for improving the Linen and Hempen Manufactures | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Making in Whole, for the Linen and Hempen Manufacture | 3650 | 0 | 0 |

We

We are graciously pleased to approve of your Purpose of publishing the aforesaid Plan for Distribution of the Moneys intended for Improvements, to continue and endure for Three Years from *Christmas* last: And We are also graciously pleased to approve of the Propositions aforesaid for employing Twelve hundred and Five Pounds, Part of the Savings in your Cashiers Hands: And do hereby authorize and empower you to issue your Precepts to your Cashier, to pay, out of the Moneys in his Hands, the several Sums above-mentioned to the several Uses and Purposes aforesaid: And this, together with your Precepts to follow thereupon, and the Receipts of the Persons to whom the Precepts shall severally be made passable, shall be to you, and your Cashier, a sufficient Authority and Exoneration. And we do further will and direct, That, in your next Annual Report, you do lay before Us a particular Account of the Moneys that shall be so issued by you for these Services. Severally given, at our Court at *St. James's*, the 12th Day of *May* 1740. in the 13th Year of our Reign.

By his MAJESTY's Command.

So signed. *R. Walpole.*

Geo. Dodington.
Sunder.

N^o VII.

[54]

N. VII.

PRICES of Raw Linen-Yarn in Germany, as imported by de Ponthieu and Egerton, for Twelve Years last past, exclusive of Charges and Duty here.

| 1739. 6lb. a Bundle, at 10d. 1/2. a lb. | 1745. 6lb. a Bundle, at 12d. lb. |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 7 do. 9 1/2 | 7 do. 11 |
| 8 do. 8 1/2 | 8 do. 10 |
| 9 do. 7 1/2 | 9 do. 9 |
| 1740. 6 do. 10 1/2 | 1746. 6 do. 11 1/2 |
| 7 do. 9 1/2 | 7 do. 10 1/2 |
| 8 do. 8 1/2 | 8 do. 9 1/2 |
| 9 do. 7 1/2 | 9 do. 8 1/2 |
| 1741. 6 do. 10 1/2 | 1747. 6 do. 12 |
| 7 do. 9 1/2 | 7 do. 11 |
| 8 do. 8 1/2 | 8 do. 10 |
| 9 do. 7 1/2 | 9 do. 9 |
| 1742. 6 do. 10 1/2 | 1748. 6 do. 12 |
| 7 do. 9 1/2 | 7 do. 11 |
| 8 do. 8 1/2 | 8 do. 10 |
| 9 do. 7 1/2 | 9 do. 9 |
| 1743. 6 do. 10 1/2 | 1749. 6 do. 12 |
| 7 do. 9 1/2 | 7 do. 11 |
| 8 do. 8 1/2 | 8 do. 10 |
| 9 do. 7 1/2 | 9 do. 9 |
| 1744. 6 do. 12 | 1750. 6 do. 12 |
| 7 do. 11 | 7 do. 11 |
| 8 do. 10 | 8 do. 10 |
| 9 do. 9 | 9 do. 9 |

The Duty upon Yarn here, from 1739. to 1747. was 2d. 1/4 per Pound Weight: And, from 1748. to 1750. 2 d. 7/8. besides Charges and Freight, which, on coarse Linen Yarn, comes to near 1/4 per Pound.

N. VIII.

[55]

N. VIII.

Irish PREMIUMS, as publish'd in the Daily Gazetteer of Tuesday, Feb. 25. 1746.

I R E L A N D.

A Bounty of 1 1/2 d. per Yard being granted by the British Parliament on all British or Irish Linens, made of Flax or Hemp of the Value of 6 d. per Yard, and not exceeding 12 d. per Yard, that shall be exported out of Great Britain to the Plantations, &c.—The Linen-Board have agreed to give the following PREMIUMS; viz.

- 1st. 500 l. To such Person or Persons, as shall manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, the greatest Quantity of sound Merchantable Linen-Cloth of 26 Inches Breadth, or upwards, made of cleansed Yarn, not less in Value than 6d. per Yard, nor more than 10 d. being such as is fit for the Use of the Servants and Negroes, in the British Colonies and Plantations; and shall cause the same to be exported to Great Britain, between the 1st of May 1746. and 1st of May 1747. provided the Quantity so exported be not less than 50,000 Yards.
- 2d. 400 l. On the like Conditions, To such as have not obtained the 1st-Premium; and to export not less than 40,000 Yards.
- 3d. 300 l. On the like Conditions, To such as have not obtained the 1st or 2d Premium; and to export not less than 30,000 Yards.
- 4th. 200 l. To such as have not obtained the 1st, 2d, or 3d Premium; and to export not less than 20,000 Yards.
- 5th. 100 l. To such as have not obtained the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th Premium; and to export not less than 10,000 Yards.

1500 l.

For exporting 150,000 Yards is 2d. 4/5 of a Penny each Yard, over-and-above Three Halfpence per Yard, given by the English Parliament.

N. B. The Irish give all Utensils for the Linen-Manufacture, as Looms, Reeds, Hatchels, Wheels, Reels, and Salaries, to a Foreman, and a Whitster; besides Seed to sow Hemp and Flax.

Dublin

Dublin Castle, March 7. 1745.

The Trustees of the Linen-Manufacture of *Ireland* give Notice, That they will give considerable Encouragement to such Flax-dressers (to be approved of by the Trustees), as shall come from any Parts beyond the Seas, into, and settle and carry on their Trade in that Kingdom.

PROPOSALS to be addressed to *Arthur Newburgh, Esq;* at the Castle of *Dublin*.

Signed by Order,

ARTHUR NEWBURGH.

PREMIUMS given by the Linen Board of *Ireland*, for manufacturing, or causing to be manufactured, great Quantities of coarse Linen, between the 1st of *May* 1747. and the 1st of *August* 1748. fit for the Use of Servants and Negroes, in the *British* Colonies and Plantations.

| | Yards. | l. |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Messrs. <i>Jeb</i> , who manufactured | 275,643 | 500 |
| Mr. <i>Wm. Lefanu</i> | 253,606 | 400 |
| Mr. <i>Ellis Price</i> | 135,011 | 300 |
| Mr. <i>Lewis Laurent</i> | 71,594 | 200 |
| Mr. <i>John Pemberton</i> | 53,882 | 100 |
| Mr. <i>Thomas Reed</i> | 37,475 | 50 |
| Mr. <i>Jonah Tanner</i> | 31,604 | 50 |
| Mr. <i>Daniel Dickenson</i> | 19,236 | 25 |
| Mr. <i>Wm. Willan</i> | 11,165 | 25 |
| Mr. <i>John Starkey</i> | 9,271 | 25 |
| Mr. <i>Henry Dempsey</i> | 3,777 | 20 |
| Mr. <i>Thomas Gamble</i> | 2,146 | 20 |
| Mr. <i>John Cross</i> | 1,902 | 10 |
| Mr. <i>George Holmes</i> | 1,538 | 10 |
| Mr. <i>Richard Dillon</i> | 869 | 5 |
| Mr. <i>John Newett</i> | 621 | 5 |

1745

Nº IX.

Nº IX.

Extracted from the Gentleman and Citizen's Almanack, for the Year 1751.

PREMIUMS on coarse Linens for the Year ending the 1st of *November* 1749. were paid by the Linen-Board to the following Persons; viz.

| | Yards. | l. |
|---|---------|-----|
| Mr. <i>Richard Jebb</i> , who caused to be manufactured and exported the greatest Quantity; viz. | 208,873 | 500 |
| Mr. <i>William Lafanu</i> | 180,345 | 400 |
| Mr. <i>Ellis Price</i> | 142,140 | 300 |
| Mr. <i>Lewis Laurent</i> | 62,406 | 200 |
| Mr. <i>Abraham Cheborn</i> | 37,817 | 100 |
| Messrs. <i>Jonathan Tanner</i> and <i>John Starkey</i> , each 50l. | — | 100 |
| <i>Richard Diston</i> , <i>Thomas Gamble</i> , <i>Daniel Dickinson</i> , <i>George Holmes</i> , each 25l. | — | 100 |
| <i>Thomas Read</i> , <i>Henry Dempsey</i> , <i>John Newett</i> , <i>Benjamin Robinson</i> , <i>Frank Taylor</i> , each 20l. | — | 100 |
| <i>John Duff</i> , <i>Samuel Greenwood</i> , <i>George Booth</i> , <i>John Pemberton</i> , <i>Richard Bryington</i> , <i>James White</i> , <i>Jonathan Newett</i> , <i>John Holmes</i> , <i>Andrew Hartford</i> , each 10l. | — | 90 |
| <i>Jonathan Tanner</i> of <i>Bandon</i> , who distinguished himself, as a useful Manufacturer in that Part of the Kingdom, had an additional Premium of | — | 40 |

In all — 1930

The other Premiums promised by the Linen-Board were not due in *October* 1750.

F I N I S.

CHAPTER I

THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR 1625. THE KING WAS

AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE

AND HAD BEEN MARRIED TWO YEARS

TO THE PRINCESS OF BRUNSWICK

WHOM HE HAD LOVED AND

RESPECTED AS HIS ONLY HEIR

AND WAS NOW IN THE FULL

OF HIS REIGN AND POWER

AND WAS ABOUT TO ENTER

UPON THE CONQUEST OF

THE KINGDOM OF FRANCE

WHEN HE WAS ASSASSINATED

BY A COMMONER CALLED

JOHN BARTHELEMY

WHOM HE HAD MET IN THE

STREET OF PARIS

AND WHO HAD BEEN

INSTIGATED BY A

POPULAR LEADER

CALLED

THE

PRINCE

OF

THE

PEOPLE

OF

THE

CITY

OF

PARIS

AND

WHO

HAD

BEEN

INSTIGATED

BY