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A  
**V I E W**  
 O F T H E  
**PRESENT STATE**  
 O F T H E  
**CLOTHING TRADE**  
 I N  
**ENGLAND,**

W I T H  
*Remarks on the Causes and pernicious  
 Consequences of its Decay:*  
 A N D  
*A Scheme of proper Remedies for the Reco-  
 very of it.*  
 T O  
 The Enlargement of the Revenue of the Crown, the  
 Imployment and Maintenance of the Poor, and the  
 General Welfare of ENGLAND.

By *John Haynes.*

L O N D O N  
 Printed for the Author. 1706.

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TO THE  
 RIGHT HONOURABLE  
 AND THE  
 HONOURABLE  
 The Commissioners of  
 TRADE.

*May it please your Honours,*

**T**HE same concern that In-  
 duces me to Publish this  
 small Treatise; obliges me to lay  
 it before your Honours; in hopes,  
 that, the zeal I have shewn in pro-  
 moting the interest of the Wool-  
 len

*The Epistle*

len Manufacture, the Losses I have sustained and am still ready to undergo in that service, and the justness of what I here offer, will plead for my excuse.

The Preservation and Increase of the Woollen Manufacture, is so necessary an Ingredient in the due Ballance of all the Branches of Foreign Trade, that your Honours will, I hope, readily own it to be worthy of your Inspection and Care: And how far what I here offer may conduce to that end, your Honours are the best Judges.

My present Circumstances are but too shrewd an evidence that in my former services I never pursued Mercenary Ends; and if I am capable to act the like  
part

*Dedictory.*

part again, I hope to shew the World that private Interest is not my principal aim.

In the mean time I hope your Honours will please to Pardon the presumption of

May it please your Honours,

Your Honours most

Obedient and most

Humble Servant.

*John Haynes.*

THE  
 PREFACE  
 TO THE  
 READER.

**T**HE Preservation of the Woolen Manufacture, being of the greatest Importance to England; 'tis presumed a just Representation of the present state of it will not be unacceptable to the publick. 'Tis but too too manifest that the true interest of the Woolen Manufacture is not pursued with due diligence and Care: And I think I have here made it to appear that the proper Measures are not yet fallen upon, for promoting and preserving it by the effectual preventing the Exportation of Wool, and adjusting the right state of the Manufactory.

Some perhaps are not duly aware of the pernicious Consequences of its Decay, and the vast Advantages of its Preservation: And for their Information I have here set forth what a great share it bears both in the Maintenance of the Poor, and in most Branches of our Foreign Trade: And on the other hand how far the Decay tends to the ruine of the People of England in all Stations, as well as lessening of the Revenue of the Crown.

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The Preface.

That this may be set in a clear light, I have shewn the inestimable value of our Wool, in proportion to all others; and have by particular and just Calculations, shewn how, at what Charge, and by how many Hands, all the distinct Species of it are made into various useful, and indeed, necessary Commodities; without the Manufacturing of which, the ballance of Trade must sink, the Revenue of the Crown must fall, and the Poor be left for a burden upon the Rich.

These things premised, I subjoyn a short Narrative of the Frauds and clandestine Plots used in carrying on the Exportation of our Wool; which I shew to be the necessary Cause of all the Inconveniences above mentioned. By the History of these Frauds, the Reader will perceive how Industrious our Enemies are in favouring the Exportation, in order to strengthen their own Hands, and weaken us in the most sensible manner; and withal how unnaturally our own fellow Subjects Conspire to the ruine of their Native Country.

In the next place, I give a short view of the several Endeavours that have hitherto been used to prevent the Exportation of Wool; and shew how they came to be uneffectual.

And that which concludes the Discourse, is a Scheme of Proposals for the more effectual pursuit of that service, and for redressing some deficiencies that have lately crept into the Manufacture of Cloth.

If I have done Justice to these Heads, I hope the Reader will acknowledge the performance is not unseasonable, now the Parliament is sitting, and the Queen having in a late Sessions so earnestly recommended to both Houses the concerting of further measures for preventing the Exportation of Wool.

The opportunity I have had of a Thorough acquaintance with this Subject both in a private Capacity in Blackwell Hall, and in the discharge of a publick

## The Preface.

publick Commission from the Government; may in some measure Apologize for the presumption of thus appearing in publick.

Tho' I have the Mortification to see my services to the Publick, accompanied with the ruine of my private Fortune: I have still the pleasure to call to Mind, that the services I have done in preventing the Exportation of Wool, are of no small Importance to the Publick, and that my Zeal in pursuit of that service, has animated others to joyn a helping hand. I am so far from being discouraged by the private losses I have thereby sustained, that if I were now fully reimburs'd, I would employ it all again in the same service.

I can without Vanity say, that what I then did, and what I now write, is sincerely and only meant for the benefit of the Trading People of England, especially those concerned in the Woollen Manufacture, and in a particular manner my Country-Men in the County of Gloucester, to whom I was a Factor more then Thirty Years.

I could add many other things relating to my concern in the Woollen Manufacture; but these being too particular for the Cognizance of the Publick, I forbear: And so leave the ensuing Treatise to the perusal of all, who wish well to their Country.

## ERRATA

PAGE 18. l. 27. for Stuffs, r. Fustians. P. 19. l. 30. for gar, r. garments.

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A  
VIEW

OF THE

Present State of the Cloathing  
Trade in England.

ENGLAND enjoys the peculiar Happiness of a Native Product, that the Great and Judicious Sir Walter Rawleigh, reckoned as valuable to us, as the Mines of Mexico and Peru to the Spaniards. I mean, our WOOL; the value of which was well known to our Ancestors, who term'd it the Flower of the Crown, the Dowry of the Kingdom, the chief Revenue of the King, &c.

If we had but the Prudence to reserve this Precious Commodity to our selves, and improve it to the best Advantage, we might soon make England the glory of the World, and not only retrieve our once flourishing

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Trade

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Trade abroad, but enlarge the Revenue of the Crown very considerably, and make a plentiful and useful Provision for our Poor at home, as well as raise the Price and Benefit of Wool to the Grower.

The Wool of *France* and *Holland* is of that nature and quality that 'twill not make Cloath or Stuffs, for Ornament or Service, without a mixture of ours with it. The Consequence of which is, that if we would secure our Wool at Home, and reserve it to be wrought up in our own Manufactures, 'twould lodge an absolute constraint upon Foreigners to furnish themselves with Cloth and Stuffs from us. Now this occasioning a greater vent of our Woolen Manufacture, will likewise occasion a greater demand for Wool, and consequently heighten the Price, by which means the Grower is particularly a gainer. And the benefit redounding from thence to the Poor is very manifest; for this additional Branch of Export, would Employ many Hundreds of Thousands of Poor that now lie Idle. On the other hand, let us consider the loss we sustain in suffering our Wool to be Exported. We thereby not only loose the Advantage now mention'd, but suffer yet more by Strengthening the Hands of our Enemies and Rivals; for one Pack of *English* Wool, will make up two of *French* Wool, and so produce a treble quantity of Woolen Manufacture, by which the *French* supply

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ply both themselves and Foreign Markets, to the great detriment of *England*, and the manifest promoting of the Interest of *France*.

'Twere easy to make out the advantage of keeping our Wool at home, by enumerating the profits arising from thence, not only to the Breeder of the Sheep that bear it, but to the respective Trades-Men employed in the Working of it into various Commodities, as Cloth of all kinds, Sarges, Stuffs, Bays, Kerseys, Sayes, Perristones, Perpetuanhs, Stockins Rugs, Blankets, Hats, &c. I could shew that the keeping of our Wool at home would encourage and oblige us to breed more Sheep, for then the *French* and *Dutch* Wool, being rendred useles for want of ours to mix with it, all the Cloth now made by the *French* and *Dutch* of one third *English* Wool mixed with two thirds of their's, would then be all made here of ours alone.

The Advantages arising from this encrease of Sheep, are made to appear with equal facility. The Butcher will be a gainer both by the Carcase, and the Skin; the Felmonger Reaps a profit, not only by the Wool he takes off, but by the Skin when Tann'd into Leather, for the use of the Glover, &c. 'Twere easy I say, to run out into these considerations, which in themselves are very material: But 'tis sufficient for my purpose, to shew the inestimable value of our Wool, with reference

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to the particular Losses we sustain in parting with it, and the direct benefit we reap from it, when kept in the several Species and Branches of our Manufactures, from the thickest Drab to the thinnest Crape; calculated for all the Seasons of the Year and all the different Climates of the World.

This I propose to do by shewing in the first place, what loss the Exportation of our Wool is to the poor of *England*, and consequently to the whole Nation. *Secondly*, how far it sinks the Revenue of the Crown: And *Thirdly*, in what measure it affects the the General Foreign Trade of *England* in all its Branches. This done, I subjoin a short Narrative of the Frauds and clandestine Plot us'd in carrying on the Exportation, and of the Endeavours us'd hitherto to prevent it: With a short Scheme of proposals for the more effectual pursuit of that Service.

To begin with the *First*. The Poor of this Nation are of two sorts, or kinds, *viz.* the Aged and Impotent, that are not able by labour to maintain themselves; and such as are able to Work; and this latter is the most material to be considered as most beneficial.

As for the Relief of the Impotent Poor, the Laws have provided Remedies, by charging the Inhabitants in the respective Parishes. Not to mention the Statutes made in the

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the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, which have taken special care of the due Employment of Gifts to Charitable uses, and to the Erecting of Hospitals. Now, as to such as we term Idle Persons, it is difficult to Judge, so as to determine; for some are Idle for want of such Work as they are able to do, or for want of such Wages as might give them a reasonable Support; and many there are that would Work if they might, tho' at low Wages: A poor Man and his Wife may have 4 or 5 Children, 2 of them able to Work, and 3 not able, and the Father and Mother not able to maintain themselves and Families in Meat, Drink, Cloaths, and House Rent, under 10 s. a Week, which amounts to 26 Pound *per Annum*. Now if there were 40 such Families in a Parish, and they lived upon what was only Collected by Rates, it would rise to above 800 l. *per Annum*, which in many Parishes exceeds the yearly value of their Lands; and these Poor if not kept to Work, must live by Begging or Stealing, or else Starve. So that in the state that things are now, our Populousness which is a Blessing to any Kingdom, becomes the Burden of it, by breeding up whole Families in a Trade of Idleness, as Thieveing, Begging, and other unbecoming ways of living which in time may Eat out the Heart of the Kingdom. Now what loss does *England* sustain by loosing the Wool, which

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in being Manufactured amongst our selves, would be a sufficient Employment for our Poor of all kinds, both Men, Women and Children; who might get a livelihood better than by Begging or Stealing &c. and become profitable to the place in which they inhabit; and thereby Profaneness, Immorality, and Debauchery, the natural effects of Slothfulness, would be discouraged, and Money Circulate in Trade, and not in Stock-Jobbing and other practises prejudicial to Trade, &c.

To form an Estimate of the loss accruing to the Poor by the Exportation of Wool, 'twill be of use, to compute the Charges of Combing, Carding, Spinning, Knitting, Dying, and Pressing, Two Pound or less of our finest Comb'd Wool, with some other incident Charges, for these charges going out of the Pocket of the Undertaker, come into the pocket of the Poor which he Employs: And the Exportation of the Wool without this Manufacture, is so much neat loss to the Poor, and indeed to the whole Kingdom.

	l.	s.	d.
The Combing, Oil, and Soap,	00	03	00
This will produce Twenty			
Ounces, The Spinning of	00	06	00
which will Cost			
Doubling and Throwing	00	01	03
The			

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	l.	s.	d.
The Worsted thus made will			
make Five pair of Hose,	01	05	00
worth 5 shilling a pair Knit-			
ting			
The Dying of the Hose			
into Scarlet	00	06	00
Triming and Pressing	00	01	00
The Niles comb'd out of			
this Wool, will be 12			
Ounces, which is fit to			
make fine Drugets, or	00	00	06
mill'd Stockings, worth			
8d. per Pound. This I count			
The Carding and Spinning			
of that into Yarn	00	00	09
Doubling and Throwing it	00	00	02
Knitting this into a pair of Hose	00	00	10
Milling, and Shearing these Hose	00	01	00
Dying them into a Crimfon			
or Scarlet colour	00	01	06

Total 02 07 06

Here I take no notice of the profits of the Wool-comber, Stocking-feller, and other Trades; the abovementioned account being a sufficient instance of the loss the Poor sustain by the Exportation of rough Wool: For by this Calculation, every Two Pound of rough Wool Exported, is Two Pound Seven Shillings and Sixpence loss to the Poor, and in regard every Pack of Wool

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is 240 Pound in weight, 'twill follow that the working of a Pack of Wool within the Kingdom, gives the Poor an opportunity of Earning 264*l.* 10 shillings, and so much do they loose in Workmanship, by the Exportation of every Pack of rough combing Wool.

Now if we do but reckon up how many Hundreds of Packs, are clandestinely Ship'd off to France in one Year; what a vast Sum of Losses must be set down to the Poor, over and above all the additional Advantages arising to our Enemies and Rivals, by the said Exportation of our Staple Commodity, and the deplorable evil consequences of it with reference to Foreign Trade,

The foregoing computation relates to our finest combing Wool: But considering that there is a much greater quantity of our short cloathing Wool, Exported every Year, insomuch that Forty Thousand Packs of it have been computed to be landed in the several Ports of *France* (alone) in one Year, from *England* and *Ireland*: Upon this consideration, I say, 'twill be of use to take a particular survey of the positive and first loss sustain'd by the Exportation of every Pack of our short-cloathing-Wool,

The Manufacturing of one Pack of such short Wool into Cloth is sufficient Employment for 63 Persons for one Week, *viz.*

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- 3 Men to Sort, Dry, Mix, and make fit for the Scribbler and Stockarder.
- 5 To Scribble or Stockard it.
- 35 Women and Girls, to Card and Spin it
- 8 Men to Weave it.
- 4 Men and Boys to Spool it and wind Quils.
- 8 Men and Boys to Scoure Burle, Mill or Full it, Row, Shear, Rack and Press it.

### 63. Poor In all Employ'd for a Week.

All this is done in one Week with Four Loomes; or which is the same thing, Four Loomes constantly Employ'd, will keep 63 Persons at Work all the Year round. Judge *Hales*, in his discourse of providing for the Poor, computes that 100*l.* Stock will keep one Loom constantly going: upon which computation 'tis a plain consequence that 400*l.* Stock, will keep Four Looms constantly Employ'd, and so maintain the 63 Persons mentioned above.

But you must take notice, that when I suppose 400*l.* Stock requisite to keep four Loomes still a going, I mean it so as to be able to Stand the Ordinary delays of Sale incident to Markets: For if you would suppose the Cloth to be Sold as soon as 'tis made (which I own is not to be expected) than a Stock of 96 Pound, would, by ver-

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ture of the quick and repeated Returns, provide Materials and pay the Workmen, for Four Looms Work all the Year round.

'Tis needless to reckon up what each of these 63 Persons may earn in their respective Offices, it being sufficient for my purpose to shew that they are handsomely Maintain'd by this means, and without it are reduc'd to a starving Condition. Neither need I to compute the charge the Clothier is at, and the Profit he fetches in by the Sale; for that is various and uncertain.

I proceed in the *Second* place, to shew the Damage accruing to Her Majesty in Her Revenue of Customs, by the Exportation of Wool.

Supposing the export of 40000 Packs of Wool (for no less has been proved to be landed in one Year, in the several Ports of *France* from *England*, *Ireland*, and *Scotland* of *English* Growth) there might have been made out of them in our own Manufacture, One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pieces of Broad Cloth, or half Clothes of 23 Yards in Length, computing but 4 Pieces to be made from one Pack; now each Pack of ours working up two of *French* Growth, as is aforementioned, into good and serviceable Cloth &c. which otherways must be supplied from *England*; our loss must then be treble the Number of such Pieces, *viz.* Four Hundred and Eighty

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ty Thousand Pieces, which would Employ a vast Quantity of our Poor all the Year Round, and thereby a great Advantage would accrue to the Manufacturer, Merchant, and the Kingdom in general.

From hence we may compute what loss Her Majesty sustains by the following Commodities, which are of Immediate use for preparing the Cloth fit for a Market *viz.*

1. Sevil Oil, for preparing the Wool fit for Carding and Spinning.
2. Alicant or Castile Soap for Scouring and Fulling.
3. Madder and Indigo for Dying.

Which Commodities are brought in return for our Cloth, and pay large Customs, as is hereafter specified.

Suppose 1. That our Mix'd or Medly Cloth is prepared in its Wool with Sevil Oil, and Mill'd or Scoured with Alicant Soap, and that the Cloth made from one Pack of Wool will require 6 Gallons of such Oil. And considering one third Part of the Forty Thousand Packs (which is rational to conclude is made into mix'd Cloth) will take up, 338 Tuns 3 quarters and 55 Gallons, the Custom of which at 7 *l.* 5 *s.* and 11 *d.* per Tun, will amount to 2469 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* halfpenny.

2 That the third Part of Mixt or Medly Cloth is Milled with Foreign Soap, 14 Pound of which is Expended in Milling the Cloth made from one Pack of Wool, by

by which it will appear that 186666 *lib.* 3 quarters, is expended in the whole which at 16 Shill. and halpeny *per Cent* Custom is 1336 *l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

3 In the next place, computing the Cloth made from one other Third part of the 40000 Packs of such Wool to be Dyed with Madder (which is the product of our Cloth from *Holland*) one Pack thereof will take up 56 pound weight, which in the whole amounts to 6666 Hund. and half, which paying 2 Shill. 9*d.* *per* Hund. Custom comes to 916 *l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

Lastly supposing the other third part of the Cloth to be Dyed with Indigo, and that the produce of one Pack will take up 12 *lib.* weight the whole will take up 160000 *lib.* weight, which paying 5*d.* *per* Pound amounts to 3336 *l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

	l.	s.	d.
The whole Loss to Her Majesty in Her Revenue of Customs, Amounts to	}	8059 06	01

There are, it is well known, various sorts of Dying Wares, that are imported from many Parts of the World, that take off our Woolen Manufactures, and which are very useful in Dying, as well as those I have named, *viz.* Cochonele, Annetto, Campechiano, Galls, Brazoletto, Red Wood, Fustick, Turmerick, Argle, Shoomake; Salt-Peter,

Peter, Logwood from our own Plantations &c.

To insist no longer on this head, I turn now in order to the Third Thing proposed, *viz.* That the Exportation of our Wool, affects the several Branches of the Trade of *England* to Foreign Parts: For the better understanding of which, 'twill be of use to shew you, what Manufactures we make of our different sorts of Wool, when we keep it at home; by which means you'll have a clearer view of the Parallel between the Export of those Manufactures, and the Import of Foreign Commodities.

There are Three different sorts of Sheeps Wool, *viz.* Long combing Wool, short Wool, and Fell-Wool: Each of which has its peculiar uses.

Of our Long combing Wool, we make Stuffs of all kinds, and the finer sort of Stockings. The Niles or Pinnious that come from it, are most proper for making Druggets, Cloth Serges, Kerseys, and Mill'd Stockings. We'll suppose that three Clothiers keep one Woolcomber constantly employ'd (which is a very reasonable supposition) this Wool comber takes the Longer Staple Wool, that's sorted out of the Fleece, and unfit for the making of Cloth, off the Clothiers Hands, allowing him for it 9*d.* a Pound. When this Long combing Wool is comb'd, 'twill produce about a quarter of its weight in Niles, for which the

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the Clothier will give the Wool-comber, near as much *per* Pound, as he had from the Wool-comber for the Pound of the rough or gross Wool. And with these Niles will the Clothier employ many Poor in Carding, Spinning, &c. in order to make Druggets, Kerfies, Serges &c.

As for our Cloathing, or shorter Staple Wool, we have it of our own Growth in *England*, of different sorts, that is, from Sixpence to Eighteenpence a Pound. The finest of our short Clothing Wool grows upon the Sheep at *Lemster* in *Herrfordshire*, commonly call'd *Lemster Oar*: This, and that of the *Forrest*, and *Southdown* in *Sussex*, is little Inferior to the *Spanish* Wool.

And now that I have mentioned the *Spanish* Wool, we must know that what we commonly call *Spanish* Cloth is not made all with the Wool of *Spain*; but with *Spanish* and *English* Wool; not that these are mix'd together in the Wool, before 'tis wrought up; but that the one gives the Worp, and the other the Woof: For what we call the Worp or Chain of the fine *Spanish* Cloth, is Spun from the fine *English* Wool, and is a stronger Thread, and better for service than what is Spun from the *Spanish* Wool; And the Shoote, Woofte or Abb, is Spun from the finest *Spanish* Wool. Indeed I do not deny that Cloth has been, and is still made of all *Spanish* Wool; and that proof has been made  
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of fine Cloth, made of a Chain of Silk with a Woofte of *Spanish* Wool. But for the most part our fine *Spanish* Cloth is made (as I said above) of a Worp of *English* Wool, and a Woofte of *Spanish*.

Of our own Clothing or shorter staple Wool, we make Cloth which is commonly six quarters wide, and runs from Four shillings *per* Yard to Twelve shillings *per* Yard. We likewise make Serges and other Woollen Goods of the same Wool; and the worst and coarsest part of the Fleece is made into Blankets, Ruggs, and Coverings for Waggons, Boats, &c. For in the sorting of the Fleece, there are many different sorts of Wool, made and sorted, which are well known to the Wool-stapler, and by which many great Estates have been got in former times: But my design being only to shew, what Manufactures we make of the Three principal sorts abovementioned, I proceed now to the Fell Wool.

By Fell Wool, we mean, that which is taken from the Pelt or Sheeps Skin, and serves for the making of Bays, Stockings and Hats, &c. This Wool is sometimes exported to *France*, under the notion of *Scots* Wool. The making of this Fell-Wool into Cloth, is of pernicious consequence, for if we make a white Cloth of it, and send it to the Dyers, after it is Dyed it not only feels much harsher and rougher than it did when 'twas white, but shrinks both  
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in Length and Breadth, so that its former length can't be recovered without great difficulty: Whereas a Cloth made of Fleece Wool, or (as some call it) live Wool as being shorn from the live Sheep, does not suffer in the Dying either as to its fineness or its length: For after 'tis Dy'd, its fineness both to the Eye and the Hand is much the same with what it was before Dying, and its length is not only easily recovered, but much enlarged upon the Tenter without prejudice to the Cloth; which accrues to the Merchants Profit and Advantage abroad. 'Tis apparent therefore, that the making of Fell-Wool into Cloth, is attended with many disadvantages and Losses, notwithstanding which, both this and many other Corruptions and Frauds have been practised these late Years in the making of Cloth; which call loudly for a narrower inspection, and either for the making of new Laws and prohibitions to the contrary, or putting the Old ones in strict Execution; of which more hereafter.

So much for the Manufactures made from our Wool, when kept at home; a just consideration of which, plainly sets forth the infinite loss we sustain, by suffering our Wool to be Exported to *France*, and other Foreign parts. For if our Wool be exported we so far lessen our Stock of the Woolen Manufacture, which fetches us both useful and necessary Commodities from all the parts  
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of the World, with which we entertain a commerce.

To make this out, I shall instance in some of the most flourishing Branches of our Foreign Trade.

That of *Turky*, is most profitable to us in taking off the greatest quantity of Cloth, &c. And from thence we have, in return, many useful and beneficial Wares and Merchandizes; such as Raw Silk, Grogam-Yarn, Galls, Cotton-Wool. Now by this Raw Silk, many Thousands of our Poor are supported being employed in Working of it up into various sorts of Manufactures; as they are also by the Grogam-Yarn: Their Galls are useful for Dying: Their Cotton-Wool, is us'd in making of Fustians. Not to speak of other Dying Commodities, Drugs, Leather, &c.

In our Trade with *Russia*, great quantities of our Cloth are Exported, which in return, bring us home Pot-ashes, Hemp, Leather, Furrs, Sloode, for making our Ship Lanthorns, and many other very useful and Advantageous Commodities, whereby a great many Persons of different Occupations are daily employ'd.

Our mixt or medly Cloth was formerly sent in great quantities to *Spain*, and likewise our Stuffs, and other Woolen Wares, viz. Bays, Perpituanoes, Stockins, &c. for which we had in return *Spanish* Wool, in  
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the working up of which into Cloth, great numbers of our Poor were employed; also Cochineal, Campecheano, Silvester, Annetto, Indico, Logwood, all very useful in Dying. Besides many other Wares, very profitable and beneficial to us, such as Pieces of Eight, Bullion, Wine, Fruit, &c.

*Portugal* takes off great quantities of our Woollen Goods, especially Stuffs, Bays and Stockings, &c. in return for which we have Oils, used in preparing our Wool for Spinning, also Wines and Fruit, Argle, Shoomack, Brazeel, &c. which 3 last are used in Dying.

Formerly also great quantities of our Cloth were sent to *Hamburgh*; but of late Years that noted and beneficial Trade is very much declined, or almost lost; which I cannot but think is chiefly occasioned by the laying open of that Company, whereby all manner of Forreigners are priviledg'd in trading thither; and by Cloth being made in the neighbouring Countries, with the help of our Wool and Fullers Earth. The Linnen Yarn we have from thence in return for our Cloth, together with our Cotton-Wool brought from *Turkey* and our own Plantations, is wrought up into Stuffs or Dimities whereby several Hundreds of our People are employed in the County of *Lancaster* and else where, to the support and maintenance of many Families. There is also Linnen Cloth, and many other useful Commodities brought from thence in return for our Manufactures. In

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In speaking of this beneficial Trade, I cannot omit to take notice of one very remarkable thing which is the cause why our Export of Cloth and other Woollen Manufactures to those Parts, of late Years is so considerably diminished; *viz.* That the People of *England* use Calicoes, in the Room of the Sleesy Linnens brought from *Hamburgh* in return for our Cloth. Now these Calicoes being bought with Money, and not purchased with our Manufacture, do lessen very much our Export: Here I might take a view of the prejudice accruing to the Trade of our Woollen Manufacture, by the wearing of Printed or Stained Calicoes, brought from *India*; but for brevities sake I shall give it as my opinion, that greater quantities of Calicoes and other Linnen have been Printed and worn in *England* Annually, since the importing of it was prohibited, than ever was brought from *India*; so that unless a restraint be laid on the Printing of them here, that prohibition will be of no use: For if the wearing of printed Linnen, be prejudicial to the vending of Silk, the product of our Cloth and most profitable Merchandize, then it will be found needful to lay a prohibition on both the Printing and Wearing of printed Linnen at home in Garment and in Furniture:

There was about 25 Years since a great demand for our Cloth from *Holland*, &c.

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which is now very much lessened; the Reason whereof is thought to arise, from the Evil and Clandestine practices of our own People, in shipping off our Wool from *Ireland* and *England*, thither, whereby they have set up Manufacturies of their own, to the manifest prejudice of our Manufacturers and Merchants.

About that time also great quantities of our fine Cloth and Stuffs made with *Spanish* Wool, and the best of our *English* growth, was sent to *France*: But they have been of late Years so plentifully supplied with Wool from *England*, *Spain*, &c. that through the encrease of their Established Manufacturies, not only the Subjects of that Kingdom but also Foreign Markets, viz. *Turky*, *Spain*, &c. are supplied

Amongst other Countries, I cannot omit to take notice of *Flanders*, for which vast quantities of our Cloth were formerly shipped; which Trade was lost by our prohibiting the Importation of their Lace, &c. brought in return of that Woolen Manufacture; for the encouragement of our Lace makers here, who 'tis presumed are not one Tenth part so many as were employ'd in Manufacturing the Wool into Cloth, Exported to those parts: But I refer the Consideration of this matter to those who are more competent Judges than my self.

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In short 'tis very plain, that the only way to have a Ballance in Trade with Foreigners, Is to keep our Wool at home in our own Manufacturies.

Now from all these Instances it is apparent, that as in former times our Woolen Manufacture kept up the Ballance of these Trades, so now if the Exportation of our Wool be continued, we have no native Product to truck for their Goods, but must pay ready Money, and so sink all at once. 'Twere easy to accumulate Instances from *Italy*, our own Plantations, &c. to prove that the Improvement and Engrossing to *England* of our Woolen Manufacture would procure a considerable Consumption abroad, and enrich this Nation, by making our Export more valuable than our Import, which would lodge a necessity upon those who trade with us, to return the Surplusage in Money.

How far the *East India* Company have contributed to sink our Ballance in Trade, is too well known to all the sensible part of this Nation.

It was the Opinion of a Judicious and Experienced Merchant not long since, that if the New and Old *East India* Company did not agree in Joining their Stocks, they would ruin one another, and that if they did so join Stocks and were united in Trade, they would ruin the Nation; which is sufficiently demonstrated, in their sending away

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so great quantities of Bullion and Foreign Coin, and our own too as is too much feared. To this purpose, I shall make a few short remarks from the Printed Paper delivered to the Honourable House of Commons in the Year 1703, wherein it appears from the accompts given in pursuant to their Order, by Dr. *Davenant* Inspector General of Her Majesties Customs,

That the Silver and Gold Exported in 5 Years did amount to Pounds <i>Sterl.</i>	} 3520387 l.	
The <i>East India</i> Goods Ex- ported in that time	} 538933	11
Whereof was in Manufa- ctures mixt with Silk, Cotton and Herba	} 0487896 l.	06
Wrought Silk to <i>Ireland</i> , and the Plantations	} 0048314 l.	09
Callicoes Exported to the value of	} 1053725 l.	
Total of the 3 Articles	1589935 l.	15

These Goods stand in direct opposition to our own Manufactures

If it be alledg'd, says my Author, that the Goods consumed in *England*, will make good the loss of the Bullion Exported; It may be answered, that a great part of them are

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are consumed needlessly and to our damage, and what is of real use may be purchased by the Export of our own produce and Manufactures, as the *Dutch* do by theirs, so that their Imports are so far from answering the Bullion that purchased them, that they are destructive to the Interest of *England*, greatly lessening the produce of our Lands, the Employment of our People, and the Effects of our most profitable Merchandize.

But that I may not digress from my purpose, I shall leave it as a certain and evident Truth, that the keeping of our Wool at Home, and Manufacturing it here, can't but Influence all the Branches of our Foreign Trade for the better; as the Exportation of it must expose us to an inequality of Trade, that (if not prevented) will terminate in the utter loss of our Commerce, and the Ruin of the Nation.

The Method I laid down at first, leads me next to the Stratagems, and fraudulent Contrivances made use of by our own People and Fellow Subjects to compass this pernicious Exportation, which indeed are various and very deep laid, and carried on in a particular manner by the Owlers in and about *Rumney Marsh*, in the County of *Kent*, from whence great quantities of our Wool have for many Years past been clandestinely conveyed to *France*, by the direction and consent not only of the *Farmer*, but of others



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of a greater and higher Rank, who having large Possessions and being great Breeders of Wool, are so wedded to the prospect of fordid Lucre and Gain, that they contrive to have their Wool conveyed to the Sea-side, and put on Board *French* Shallops in the Night time.

The Fellows Employ'd in this Service are sturdy Robbers, of the meanest Rank, that have little or nothing to lose; and when they're discovered and taken, their only Punishment by Law is a Fine and Imprisonment. One would think an action so pernicious to the Republick should deserve Death; and accordingly there was an Act made in the 14th Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the 2d. which made it Felony; but that Law was never yet executed upon any one Man. For my own part, I could wish that not only a Fine, and Imprisonment, but some Corporal Punishment, or a sentence of Transportation for Five Years to some of our Plantations in the *West-Indies*, were inflicted on those of the meaner sort that are employ'd in this clandestine Trade: And that the Men of Estates who employ these Men, were punish'd with the loss of their Estates both Real and Personal that lye within the County where they're found to be thus concern'd.

Among the various Stratagems pursued by the Men employ'd in this clandestine Service, I'm informed this is one, That they observe

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observe the Wind and Tide that favours the coming in of the *French* Shallops, and look out from the Cliffs and Rocks to descry 'em; and from these Cliffs they frequently throw down their Packs and Parcels of Wool, that they may be in a readiness for Shipping when the Boats come in.

Sometimes they bribe the Officers, or make 'em Drunk; sometimes they give Signals for Privateers or *French* Shallops to put in. In fine they have a Thousand Tricks and contrivances, which serve 'em not only in this pernicious Exportation of our Wool, but likewise in landing and concealing the Silk, Brandy, Linnen Cloth, Wines, Lace, and other prohibited Goods, which they have in return for the Wool thus Exported. In short, such has been the Treachery and Villany of our own People, that by an infinite number of deep laid Contrivances, they have eluded all the wholesome Laws made for securing the Staple Commodity of our Kingdom; and given us such mortal blows by the frequent and unaccountable Exportation of our Wool, as seem to threaten the whole Constitution. 'Twas by this means that so many Manufacturies came to be erected in *France*, *Holland*, *Sweden*, and *Germany*; which without the help of our Wool could never have subsisted.

A few Years since a great Manufactory was set up at *Paris*, at a place called the *Goblins*, an Ancient Palace of the Kings of *France*

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*France*, in which in the time of the last Peace, there were an Hundred and Fifty Looms set up, and as many more preparing, a Bank being rais'd for that effect by the Merchants, to which the King himself, to give countenance to so beneficial a Work for the enriching of his Country, and employing of his Poor, order'd (as I was told) Ten Thousand Pistoles. Now this Manufactory, was chiefly manag'd by an English Man who was a decay'd Clothier, and had been decoy'd thither to teach them the way of mixing our Wool into Colours for making of mixt or medly Cloth, which they now do altogether as well as our Clothiers in *England*.

To give one Instance more, in the Year 1702, a Letter was sent to a Merchant in *London*, from a Merchant of *Stockholm* in *Sweden*, with a Commission to buy up with all possible Expedition, a parcel of Cloth, consisting of about a Hundred pieces. But before the Cloth could be bought up, there came another Letter from the *Swedish* Correspondent countermanding his former order, upon the Plea, that since his first Letter, a *Scotch* Ship had arriv'd there with Eighty Bags of *English* Wool, in each of which was contain'd three English Packs, the whole making Two Hundred and Forty *English* Packs of wool; and that the Poor there who had been long Idle for want of Wool

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work up, would soon Manufacture the same into Cloth. One would think the bare mentioning of these Instances might be sufficient to alarm us, and stir us up to correct and prevent such pernicious and fatal Mis-carriages.

Before I conclude this short representation of the Frauds and Stratagems us'd in Exporting our Wool, I shall take notice in a particular manner of the City of *Canterbury*, where the generality of those employ'd in the working of our Wool are *French* Refugees, or such as act under 'em: for such is the corruption of that place, that a few Years ago being there, I caus'd a list to be taken of all the Master Combers in the City, and upon consulting with one of them who had been a fair Trader, upon an impartial computation, he charg'd above one third part of them to have been Transporters of Wool to *France*, and other Foreign parts.

Some may imagine that now in time of War, the Laws being so severe in the Penalties upon all that correspond with *France*, this Transportation of Wool, and running of *French* Goods, cannot be Practis'd without evident danger. But the Men we are now speaking of, have several ways to elude the dint of those Penalties. To mention but one of a great many, they take the Wool and put it on board some of our own small Vessels or Boats, and when they hear of a  
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ny French Privateers upon the Coast, put out to Sea and make Signals to 'em, upon which the Privateer makes up to 'em under the counterfeit of a Chace, and after some mock firing board the Wool Vessel, and carry her to *France* as if she were a Prize. When they come to any Port in *France*, the Owners exchange their Wool for Brandy, Linnen Cloth, and other Commodities. With these Commodities they freight their own Vessel, and so steal home again, and run the Goods. Oftentimes they bury the Brandy in the Sands, and marking the place fetch it away in the Night time. This some of 'em have confessed upon Conviction; and own'd withal that the Profit they make of a Pack of Wool in *France*, is so considerable that if they escape being taken, but three times in five, they are still gainers.

In short the only sure and effectual means to prevent the Exportation of Wool, is the Empowering and Encouraging the Commissioners already appointed by Act of Parliament, to be vigilant in Exerting their Authority, and allotting them such Provisions and Salaries as may enable 'em to employ and Reward their Officers.

This Power was first lodg'd in the Commissioners of the Customs, who by virtue of Acts of Parliament made in the 12th and 14th of *Charles 2.* Issu'd forth Orders to their chief Officers in their respective Ports, to inspect and prevent the Exportation of Wool

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Wool. But so it was that either through the carelesness, or through the Corruption of many of these Officers, the Exportation of Wool was still practis'd with impunity; insomuch that upon the Death of King *Charles 2d.* The Clothiers of several of the Clothing Counties, Petitioned King *James the 2.* for the redress of such a crying grievance: Upon which, he gave a Commission by Letters Patents under the privy Seal, in the Fourth Year of his Reign, to several Persons of Honour and Worth in and about the Cities of London, and Westminster, bearing date *June 24th.*

The Commission was directed to the Governours, Deputy Governours and Treasurers of several Companies of Merchants then in being, who were all zealous Promoters of the Woolen Manufacture: Particularly

To the Right Honourable *Laurence Earl of Rochester*, Governour of the Fellowship of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, commonly called the *Hamborough* Company, and to the Deputy Governour and Treasurer &c.

To the Honourable *George Earl, of Barty*, Governour of the *Turky* Company, and to the Deputy Governour of the said Company.

To Sir *Gabriell Roberts* Knt. Sub Governour of the Royal *African* Company, and to the Deputy Governour &c.

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To Sir *Benjamin Blathwest* Knt. and Baronet, Governour of the *East India* Company, and to the Deputy Governour of the said Company.

To Sir *Dudley North*, Knt. Governour of the *Russia* Company, and to the Treasurer of the said Company.

To *Sammuel Tench* Esq; Governour of the *Eastland* Company. Sir *Benjamin Ayloff* Knt. and Barronet, Deputy Governour: *Thomas Phillip* Esq; Treasurer of the said Company.

And to several other Merchants, Woolstaplers and Factors.

The Tenour of the Commission runs thus.

*Whereas* We are informed by the humble Petition of divers of Our Subjects, Merchants, Clothiers, and others, intrusted in the Wollen-Manufacture, that notwithstanding all the Endeavours which have been used, not only by our late dearest Brother, but also by Our self, since Our Accession to the Crown, and by Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, and Commissioners of Our Customs, to prevent the Exportation of Wool, Wool-fells, Mortlings, Shorelings, Yarn made of Wool, Wool-flocks, Fullers Earth, Fulling-Clay, and Tobacco Pipe-Clay; out of this our Kingdom, as well as Our Kingdom of *Ireland*: Yet great Quantities of Wool, and other the things aforesaid are daily Exported, contrary to the Laws and

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and Statutes in that behalf provided, which is and will be most destructive to the Clothing Trade of the said Kingdom, and consequently tend to the great Impoverishment, if not utter Ruine of many of Our Subjects, dealing in the said Clothing Trade, who thereupon have humbly proposed unto Us That for the better and more Effectual Prevention of the Mischief aforesaid, they are Willing to enter into a Voluntary Contribution amongst themselves, for defraying the Charges requisite in the Prosecution of the said Offenders, and preventing the said Mischiefs, and Inconveniencies, and have humbly besought Us to grant Our Royal Commission to that End and Purpose. K N O W you therefore that We reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity, Abilities, and Circumspections; have thought fit to Nominate, Constitute; and appoint You and every of You, Our said Commissioners for Preventing the Exportation of Wool, out of our said Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*; And we do hereby give and Grant unto You Our said Commissioners full Power and Authority most effectually to prosecute, and put in Execution or cause to be prosecuted and put in Execution, the several Laws and Statutes made in Our said Realms, and now in force against the Exportation of Wool, Wool-fells, and other the things aforesaid Except the Power of Seizing Wool in any other Manner than

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than as hereafter is expressed) to the Intent that the Offenders therein may be brought to Exemplary punishment, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Statutes, and so prevent so far as by Law you may the Committing the said Offences; and forasmuch as the Offences aforesaid are now become a Notorious and Common Nuisance. and difficult to be restrained, in regard of the Generality and Multitude of the Offenders, and of the great charge and expence which is necessary in preventing and discovering the said Offenders, and in Prosecuting them with Effect. We do hereby Licence, and Permit, Authorize, and Impower you Our said Commissioners, or any Seven or more of you from time to time, to Collect, gather, and receive or cause to be Collected, gathered, and received from any of our Subjects, whatsoever such Sum and Sums of Money, as they or any of them shall from time to time voluntarily contribute, and bestow for, and in order to the preventing the Exportation of Wool, and ether the things before mentioned, out of Our said Kingdoms or either of them, contrary to Law, and for the more effectual detection, prosecution, and Punishment of all Persons Offending therein, and better discovery and prevention of the said Offences; We do hereby direct and Authorize, you Our said Commissioners, or any Seven or more of you from time to time, with and out of the said Moneys or part thereof to hire, maintain, and employ for the Purpo-

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ses aforesaid, any Ships, Vessels, and Officers, Persons, in and about the said Service, in and upon any of the Coasts, Roads, Creeks, Havens, Ports, Rivers, or other Places, as you or any Seven or more of you shall from time to time think fit, within Our said Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, or either of them. And also out of the said Moneys, so from time to time to be paid in and contributed as aforesaid, to Pay, Satisfie, and Defray all necessary and incident Costs and Charges, Salaries to Officers, Allowances and other Expences, whatsoever in, and concerning the preventing the Exportation of Wool, Wool fells and other the things abovementioned, out of either of our said Kingdoms, as aforesaid, and in or concerning the Seizing of any such Wool or other things aforesaid according to Law, and in and concerning the effectual prosecution of all and every Offender and Offenders, in the Premises or otherwise howsoever, in relation to the said Service: Provided always, and Our Will and Pleasure is, that you Our said Commissioners shall from time to time, at the end of every Twelve Months or oftner, if thereunto required, during the continuance of this Our Commission, give and render unto the Commissioners of Our Treasury now being, or Our High Treasurer or Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being in writing under the Hands of you, or any seven

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ven or more of you, true Duplicates of your Books of Accompts, containing the several Sums of Money by you or any of you, from time to time received, for the Uses and Purposes aforesaid; and the Moneys by you or any of you disbursed in pursuance of this Our Commission, with the several Particulars thereof under distinct and proper Heads, and containing an Account of your whole Actings and doings, in the Premises for the Preceding Twelve Months: And our Will and Pleasure is that the said Accompts, from time to time to be made by you, or any Seven or more of you as aforesaid, shall be kept by you or some of you, or by some Officer to be appointed for that purpose by you our said Commissioners, or any Seven or more of you, and shall remain entered in a fair Book, in some convenient place, to be by you in like manner appointed, to the intent that all and every Person and Persons whom it shall concern, may for their Satisfaction have resort unto, and view, and peruse the same. And for the better and more Effectual carrying on the said Service, Our further Will and Pleasure is; and We do hereby direct and require the Commissioners of Our Customs now and for the time being, from time to time, to grant their Deputation or Deputations to such Person and Persons, as shall at any time be Named by you Our said Commissioners or any Seven or more of you (and ap-

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approved of by them Our said Commissioners of the Customs) for the Seizing of all such Wool, or other the things aforesaid, as shall be at any time endeavoured to be Transported contrary to Law, such Person and Persons from time to time giving such Security as Our Commissioners of Our Customs for the time being shall approve, for the due Registering and Entering at Our Custom House *London*, all Seizures from time to time made by them the said Persons, or any of them. And for the due answering Our part of the Forfeitures upon such Seizures. And also for their Acting, or Omitting nothing which may tend to the Prejudice of Our Revenue. And lastly We do hereby Grant and Declare, that you Our said Commissioners shall and may have, hold, exercise and Enjoy the several Powers and Authorities aforesaid, during Our Will and Pleasure only. In Witness whereof We have Caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. Witness Our Self at *Westminster*, the 28th Day of *June* in the 4th Year of Our Reign.

Clerk,

*By Writ of Privy Seal.*

In pursuance of this Commission, the said Commissioners met in *London* at Founders Hall in Lothbury Weekly, and gave orders

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for the fitting out of several Shallops for Cruising, and appointed Land Officers to have inspection upon the Coast of the County of Kent, who were frequently disturb'd in the Exercise of their Office by considerable Numbers of French that came Armed ashore to Guard and Cover the Exporters. Upon this a Troop of Horse was sent down to assist the Officers, but what assistance they gave was chiefly to the Owlars, who brib'd 'em to connive at the Exportation of the Wool: Nay some of 'em have own'd since, that they not only conniv'd at that clandestine Practice, but left their Stable doors open upon compact with the Exporters, to give them an opportunity of making use of their Horses in the Night time for conveying the Wool to the Sea side where the Shallops lay ready to receive it.

In fine, the said Commissioners having expended many Hundred Pounds of their own more than was Collected, and seeing no likelihood of being either reimburs'd, or procuring a sufficient Sum to answer the charge of carrying on so important a Work, did thereupon fall off and decline acting.

Matters being come to this pass, the Clothiers of the Western Parts represented their Case in a Petition to the King and Council, who thereupon ordered the Commissioners of the Customs to make a Report, to the Committee of Trade,

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Trade, of their Opinion relating to that Affair.

The Report was as follows.

May it please your Lordships; By an Order of His Majesty in Council, signified to us by Sir *John Nickolus*, upon the Petition of the Commissioners appointed by His late Majesty for the preventing the Exportation of Wool; Complaining that great quantities of Wool are daily Transported, to *France*, by loading it on Privateers Commissionated against the *Hollanders*, which by reason of the Strength and Number of Offenders they are not able to suppress. And therefore Praying that some means may be used for preventing this practice for the future.

His Majesty being pleas'd to refer the consideration thereof to us, requiring us to Report to the Right Honourable the Committee of Trade and Plantations what Remedy we conceive most proper to put a stop to the growing mischief so prejudicial to the Trade and welfare of this Kingdom.

We Humbly Report that it hath been the constant Opinion of this Board, that the preventing the Exportation of Wool, is a matter of great Moment and Consideration as well to the Revenue of Customs, as to the Trade and Welfare of

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this Kingdom; And so do Humbly acquaint your Lordships, that since the Year 1685, the Crown hath been and is at an Extraordinary expence of Seven or Eight Hundred Pounds *per Annum* at least out of the Revenues of the Customs in the maintaining of Vessels at Sea in that service, besides an allowance of a Moity of the King's Forfeitures of all Wool Seized, and all other Forfeitures by the Act for the preventing the Exportation thereof, as a Bounty for the encouragement of such as should Seize or make a discovery of the Fraud relating thereto. And because that Expence and Bounty from the Crown was not found sufficient to undertake and carry on the Charge of the said service; His late Majesty was pleased upon the Petition of the Clothiers and Factors, and from the Report from this Board to your Lordships, to Issue out the aforesaid Commission to prevent the Exportation of Wool, to certain Persons to Collect a voluntary contribution towards the same. And if the said Commission be determined, it is the Opinion of this Board that the Laws prohibiting the Exportation of Wool, cannot be duly put in Execution, and the Evils effectually prevented, without some Persons Commissionated as before, fit to be trusted with a matter of this Nature, be employ'd therein, with a considerable supply of Money to be expended by them in the said service

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service, 2 or 3 Thousand Pound *per Annum* at least, over and above all Fines and Forfeitures; and in the mean time we conceive it will conduce much to the service aforesaid, if His Majesty should be pleased by His Royal Proclamation to revive the Proclamation which was made by His late Majesty touching this Matter.

Custom House London  
March the 4th. 1689.

Tho. Worden }  
Dudly North } Commissioners.  
Will. Culliford }

This was only intended for the County of *Kent*; for the West and the North Counties had not then so much knowledge of the Exporting Trade as they have now.

By this Report 'tis apparent that the Commissioners of the Customs then in being, were highly sensible from their own Experience, of the great difficulty and charge of preventing the Exportation of Wool. Particularly they found *Rumney Marsh* and the other places on the Coast of *Kent*, very hard to be guarded; and their chief Endeavours were level'd upon that Coast: for at that time of Day there was not such Exportation from *Norfolk*, *Lincolnshire* and the Borders of *Scotland*, as hath been pra-

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aised since. In short, They found their Officers very remiss in doing their Duty. At last the Clothiers from several Counties represented the Grievance to the Parliament, and the Report abovemention'd being taken into consideration, a Bill was prepar'd and brought in for the more Effectual preventing the Exportation of Wool, which passed into an Act in the First Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*.

In the Preamble of that Act, the Remisness and Negligence of the Officers employ'd is taken notice of to be of very bad consequence, tending to the ruin and undoing of many of the Subjects, and the great diminution of the Trade of this Kingdom. In short, in this Act, particular and separate Commissioners were appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wool, Fullers-Earth, &c. The Persons nominated for that end in the Act, were Persons of known integrity and worth, and both interested in, and zealous Patrons of the Woollen Manufacture. But for want of Mony to defray the charges of Officers, Courts-sitting &c. They were forced to decline acting for some Years, till at last the Exportation became so barefac'd, not only in *Kent* and *Suffex*; but also upon the Borders of *Scotland*, and in several Maritim Counties of this Kingdom; whereupon the Merchants and Clothiers of the Northern parts made  
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pressing solicitations to Sir *Henry Gooderrick*, a *Yorkshire* Gentleman, one of the Commissioners nominated in the Act, to call together a meeting of the Commissioners for applying some Remedy to the Reigning Evil, and giving the necessary Orders to put the Laws in Execution. Pursuant to their repeated request, that worthy Gentleman did forthwith procure a Meeting of such of the Commissioners as were then in and about the City of *London*. They met at the *Guild Hall* of *London* July 22d. 1698. And considering that they had no Provision of Mony for defraying the charges of Officers; (upon which head the King in Council had been Petitioned, and the matter referr'd to the Lords of the Treasury) they immediately drew up the following Representation to the Lords of the Treasury.

May it Please your Lordships,

Several of the Commissioners appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wool, &c. having this Day met at *Guild-Hall*, in order to the putting the said Acts in Execution, have agreed unanimously Humbly to Represent to your Lordships consideration the pressing necessity of your Lordships taking such favourable Resolutions upon the Reference lately made by His Majesty in full Council, to a Petition Signed by several Merchants and Eminent

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ment Traders of this City to the ends abovementioned, which we presume ere this is laid before your Lordships.

And we are the more embolden'd hereto by the frequent and certain Informations we have received that great Quantities of Wool have lately been Transported into Foreign Parts, and much more thereof is probably prepared for the same End, to the great discouragement of the Woollen Manufacture.

Our Duty obliges us to this Representation and our selves to be

Your Lordships most Humble Servants.

Guild Hall London

July 26. 1698

This was Signed by Sir *Henry Gooderick* Chairman, and the Commissioners then present

At the same time these worthy Gentlemen being touch'd with a deep sense of the present distress of the Northern parts, did upon Reading several Acts of Parliament, and from thence debating the matter, conclude to send Officers into the Counties bordering upon *Scotland* with necessary Instructions how to act.

As soon as these Officers arrived at their respective Posts, they acted both with courage

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rage and zeal; for in less than two Months time, they sent up several Informations to be exhibited in the Court of Exchequer against Persons that they had discovered to be Transporters of Wool; and made many Seizures of Wool, which upon due Prosecution were Condemn'd. I shall only mention one Seizure in which they met with Opposition, and had not only the Wool wrested out of their Hands, but were dangerously wounded and left for Dead by some Scots Dragoons that surpris'd and overpowered them in the Night time, and were suppos'd to be encouraged and countenanc'd in the Attempt, by some Gentlemen of the County of *Northumberland*, who were great Breeders of Sheep; and had been accustom'd to drive 'em from the Borders into *Scotland*, near the time of Shearing, and to drive 'em back again in the Night time after they were Shorn.

In the *Bishoprick* of *Durham* a French Ship was Seized, that had been a Privateer named the *Fox* of *Dunkirk*, which was appraised and condemned, and Three of the Persons concern'd in Transporting of Wool taken and committed to *Durham* Goal, being the Master and Owners of the said Ship.

Soon after Complaints came, and Affidavits were sent up to the said Commissioners, of many and great abuses committed

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ted in violation of the Laws made against the Exportation of Wool, Fullers Earth, &c. in the Western Counties, particularly *Hampshire*, and the *Ile of Wight*; whereupon the said Commissioners sent Agents into those Counties, who indeed did good and effectual service.

Having at that time the Honour to be one of the Commissioners nominated in the abovementioned Act of Parliament, I had occasion to inspect both the proceedings of the whole Commission, and the return sent us of Seizures and Services done by these Agents; and shall therefore take occasion here to present the Reader with a few Instances of the most signal services done.

One of the Kings Yatches, called the *Isabella*, was Seiz'd with a quantity of Comb'd Wool on Board, stow'd under the Beds in the Cabbin. After that the said Yatch and Wool was Apprais'd, by virtue of a writ of Appraisment out of the Exchequer; but so it was that the Wool was only Condemn'd, the Yatch being claim'd by the King's Attorney General and security given to stand Tryal. But whether for want of Money to carry on the Tryal, or for disagreement amongst the Officers, the matter was not prosecuted to due purpose: So that the Officers were in effect losers by their Seizure, for the Wool when Condemn'd did little more than defray the charge of the Prosecution, as far as it went:

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went: Tho' indeed 'twas presum'd His Majesty would have otherwise Rewarded them for their good Services.

There were many Seizures of Wool made in several other Maritim Counties. A Seizure was made, and Condemn'd in *Dorsetshire*. The same thing happened in *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*. In *Lincoln* several Seizures were made and lodg'd in the Custom-House; but the Officers having expended their Substance in maintaining themselves and their Horses in the service, had not Mony to pursue the Condemnation; and for the same reason, they were obliged to drop the Informations they had laid against several whom they had discovered to have been Exporters of great quantities of Wool to *France*.

In *Norkfolk* a remarkable Seizure was made at *Yarmouth*, of a Ship laden with scouring Clay for *Holland*, the Owners of which denied it to be such, for that they frequently Shipp'd it off for Potters Clay, as they pretended. In making this Seizure the Officers met with much difficulty and opposition; for the Owner of the Ground where the Clay was dug, being a wealthy Man, and a Person of good Esteem, rais'd the Town on the Officers, upon which they were so pelted with Stones that they scap'd narrowly with their Lives. A sample of the Clay was lodg'd by the Wool Officers in the Custom-

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Custom-house; and the Commissioners for Wool having sent for some of it up, they sent it to an Eminent Potter in *St. Katharines*, to have it prov'd whether it would make into Pots or not. Accordingly the Potter tryed it, and found that it would not make into Pots, without a mixture of Potters Clay, and even then it did not make so well as the Potters own Clay which was much coarser. This done, Orders were given to prove it in a Fulling Mill in the scouring of Cloth, which it effected so well, that the Fuller prefer'd it before Fullers Earth. Matters being thus prepar'd, a Prosecution was commenc'd against the Transporters, grounded on the Statute of 12. *Charles* 2d. but the defendant being a Person of Wealth and Interest, they were not able to carry it on for want of Mony. If the Officers had been able to pursue the Suit, the Earth then Seiz'd being 24 Tun, with the addition of the Penalty given in the Statute, would have amounted to above Fifteen Thousand Pounds. Whatever was in that matter, the chief Agent of that County in whose Name the Suit was commenc'd, disappear'd and left *England*, which gave some suspition of under-hand dealing: The inferior Officers being left expos'd to ruin, after spending their Substance in an imperfect Prosecution. This and some other Instances of the like nature, prov'd not only

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a severe hardship upon the particular Officers concern'd, but matter of discouragement to all the rest, who not only hazard-ed their Lives, but expended their Substances in hopes of a just Retribution.

The said Commissioners fitted out a small Sloop under the Command of one Captain *Edwards* (a Person who very well knew the intreagues and ways of the Owlers) who Seiz'd great quantities of Wool, on Board several Ships and Boats, which he Prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer. I will mention one more remarkable than the rest, *viz.* a small Boat of about 5 or 6 Tun, which had carried Wool frequently to *France*, under one *Causey* the owner thereof a Notorious Owler; in which Boat besides Wool was found, French Colours, and also Granado shells, with Iron Spikes, which 'tis believed were prepared for being hand-ed into any Boat that should come to Board or Examine them; which murdering Engine, would stick fast wherever it fell upon Wood, and would in the breaking have sunk a small Boat, and either kill'd or wounded those in it. The Colours and one of the Shells was brought before the Commissioners, and a Prosecution was ordered to be carried on against *Causey* and his adherents.

This small Sloop took more Wool in Eighteen Months, than all the Frigats and Sloops, established for that purpose, had done

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done for many Years, as can be demonstrated. This Captain *Edwards*, Seiz'd also a *French* Vessel, and a *Dutch* one, with a considerable quantity of Wool, which was Condemned, but the Ships freed by his Majesty's Order, for that they were freighted out with Merchants Goods; for which Good service His Majesty King *William* ordered the Lords of the Admiralty then in being to Post the said Captain in a 5th Rate Man of War, or take his Sloop into the pay of a 6th Rate: The Captain having had good success, and hopes of further in his small nimble sailing Sloop continued in it, and had the said Pay, besides one Hundred Pound in Money, and was Victualled also out of the Kings Stores. I might Enlarge both on his Services and Sufferings for the Government, but for brevities sake I omit 'em.

To conclude, the Agents and Officers did wonderful good service every where, and the Commissioners were extremely well pleased that they had been capable to make such a regulation as seem'd to Promise well. But at last there being no possibility of obtaining Money out of the Exchequer to pay the Officers for their good Services, and Reimburse what the poor Men had expended out of their own Substance; the Officers were forced to decline acting, and withdraw themselves after having met with very ill treatment in many

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ny Countries, by having Seizures taken from them by Replevy's contrary to Law, and sometimes rescued from them by force; and being put to great Trouble in most Countries in prevailing with the Grower of Wool to make his Entry after shearing as the Law directs.

And here it may not be improper to mention the Expences those Officers Employ'd by the Commissioners for Wool, were at, in maintaining themselves and Horses, and carrying on Prosecutions on Informations against the Offenders in the several Maritim Counties hereafter named. *viz.*

	l.
<i>Northumberland</i> —————	1380
<i>Bishoprick of Durham</i> —————	270
<i>Cumberland</i> —————	340
<i>Westmorland</i> —————	190
<i>Yorkshire</i> —————	520
<i>Cheshshire</i> —————	160
<i>Lancashire</i> —————	200
<i>Lincolnshire</i> —————	740
<i>Norfolk</i> —————	590
<i>Suffolk</i> —————	270
<i>Essex</i> —————	350
<i>London and Surry</i> —————	200
<i>Kent</i> —————	790
<i>Suffex</i> —————	380
<i>Hampshire and Isle of Wight</i> —————	770
<i>Dorsetshire</i> —————	440
<i>Somerset and City of Bristol</i> —————	220

E

Devon-

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<i>Devonshire</i> —————	220
<i>Cornwall</i> —————	280
<i>North and South Wales</i> —————	750
The fitting out a Sloop and Main- taining the same, with other in- cident Charges that attended the fitting of the Commissio- ners, &c. —————	880
The Total	09940

*Note,* That the Officers who had Deputations from the Commissioners of Wool, voluntarily offer'd to serve the Government at no purchase no pay, being upon their application to them told that there was no Provision made by the Government for giving them Salaries, for the Maintaining of themselves and Horses; but that Endeavours should be used to obtain Money from the then Lords of His Majesty's Treasury, which was done accordingly, but to no effect, by reason of the War: Now should that Commission be put on foot by Her Majesty's order, or the Parliament, I will say that some of those Officers spoken of, would be the most proper Persons to be Employ'd in that service as being Experienced in the Laws, and in making of Seizures and discoveries of the Offenders.

The Entry of Wool, 'tis true is required to be made by the Officers of the Customs,

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Customs, on the Sea Coast but was and is to this day neglected by them, except in *Kent* and *Sussex*, for having occasion my self to go to 2 or 3 Ports upon Business, I took occasion to call upon the Officers to know what they did in that matter, by whom I was answered, that what was brought to them they Entred; but having no Horses allowed them, nor any additional fallary for that service, they did not think it their Business to look after it. I replied that it was their indispenfible duty, for that the Act of Parliament did positively require it, and order'd that upon Refusal or neglect of such Entry, all the unentred Wool should be Seiz'd. To this they replied again, that if they should make such Seizures, all the Country, especially the Gentry and landed Men, would be disgusted with it to the highest degree.

Such were the Methods that have been hitherto taken for preventing the Exportation of Wool by land Service: And if we take a view of the Methods taken to prevent it by Sea Service, we'll find them equally chargeable and ineffectual. In the Seventh and Eighth Year of King *William*, 'twas enacted that the then Lord high Admiral, or the Commissioners for Executing that Office, should direct and appoint one Fifth Rate, two Sixth Rates, and Four Armed Sloops, to cruise constantly from the North-foreland, to the Isle of Wight,

E. 2

with

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with orders to take and Seize all Ships, Vessels, or Boats, that offer'd to export any Wool, or carry or bring any prohibited Goods, or suspected Persons. In pursuance of this order, those Ships and Sloops were accordingly fitted out, and the Kingdom was at a very great Annual Expence in Maintaining them. There was also Establish'd by Warrant from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury, three Sloops, in the Month of *March* 1697, which prov'd both Chargeable and Ineffectual. In *January* 1698. The Parliament order'd the Admiralty to lay before them an Account of the yearly charge of each of those Frigats and Sloops, for Wages, Victuals, Wear and Tear, exclusive of the Charge of the Office of Ordnance. Accordingly an Account was given in, relating both to the Frigats and Sloops, fitted out by the Admiralty, and to the Sloops fitted out by Warrant from the Lords of the Treasury, viz.

Rates

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Rates.	Ship-Names.	l.
5th	<i>Love.</i> Between the Isle of <i>White</i> and <i>Beachy</i>	} 07020
6th	<i>Deal-Castle.</i> Between the <i>Neesse</i> and <i>Beechy</i>	} 05720
Advice-Boats.	<i>Express.</i> Between the <i>Neesse</i> and <i>Beechy</i>	} 02860
	<i>Messenger.</i> Between the Two <i>Furlongs</i>	} 02860
Brigantines.	<i>the Fly.</i> The yearly charge given in	} 01820
	<i>Intelligence.</i> The yearly Charge	} 01820
	<i>the Spy.</i> Between the <i>South Foreland</i> and <i>Neesse</i>	} 01820
		23920

Being demanded what Seizures of Wool was made by any of the said Frigats or Sloops.

The Answer was That occasionally they stopped Sixteen Packs of Wool which fell into the Officers of the Customs Hands, &c.

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The Three Sloops fitted out by Warrant from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury, in the Month of *March* 1697.

Sloops Name.	No. of Men.	Their Station of Cruising	yearly Char.
<i>Dover.</i>	14	From the North Fore-land to <i>Dungrines</i>	l. 12
<i>Rye.</i>	16	From <i>Dungrines</i> to <i>Beechy Head</i>	00474 00
<i>Shorum</i>	15	From <i>Beechy-Head</i> to <i>Chichester</i>	00501 00

Total of the Annual Charge  
These 3 Sloops being bought at *Dun-*  
*kirk* and *Ostend* Cost } 01503 00  
00593 01

For fitting them out to Sea, Cost *viz.*  
The *Dover* Sloop. 00225 08  
*Rye* Sloop 00184 14  
*Shorum* Sloop 00200 04

The Total Charge is 02706 07

The Annual Charges of the Riding Officers in the Counties of *Kent* and *Suffex.* given in by the Commissioners of the Customs. *viz.*

*Kent* 2230 l. }  
*Suffex* 0166 l. } 02396 00

The Charge of the 2 Frigats and 4 Armed Sloops appointed by the Admiralty amounts to } 05096 07  
23920 00

The Annual charge of the whole in the several Particulars } 29016 07

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Further, in the 10th and 11th Years of the Reign of King *William*, an Act was made for preventing the Exportation of Wool out of the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland* into Foreign Parts; by which it was Enacted, that the Lord High Admiral of *England*, or Commissioners for Executing the Office of High Admiral for the time being, should direct and appoint 2 Ships of the 5th Rate, and 2 Ships of the 6th Rate, and 8 Armed Sloops, constantly to Cruise on the Coast of *England* and *Ireland*, particularly betwixt the North of *Ireland* and *Scotland*, for preventing the Exportation of Wool from *Ireland* into *Scotland*, *France* and other Foreign Parts; in which Act very large Rewards are given to the Officers and Mariners for Seizing of Wool intended for Transportation.

Now it being the constant Practice with unwearied diligence of the *Scots*, by deep lay'd contrivances, to obtain the Wool of *Ireland* as well as that of *England*, and Ship it off to *France* and *Swedeland*, with that of their own Growth mixed with it, having Profitable returns made them in Wines, Brandy, Silks, &c. It is highly necessary that some Sloops and a Frigate or two, should constantly Cruise on that Coast, yet, (with Submission) I think that two Frigats of the 6th Rate, and two Armed Sloops are sufficient to be employ'd in that Service; and that



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that for the prevention of any Ship freighted with Wool for *England* its going to *France*, 2 other Sloops should be employ'd as Convoys to see the said Wool landed in *England*, at the respective Ports allowed of and appointed by Acts of Parliament; and that Officers should be appointed on Land, for Entering such Wool from whom it came, and to whom consigned: Now such Frigats and Sloops being reduced to half the Number, which may very well be done, if a prohibition be lay'd on Wool's passing by Water Carriage: Riding Officers might be Established for Guarding the Coast of *Ireland* as in *England*, and that with a quarter part of the Charge the Frigats and Sloops, proposed to be recalled, do stand the Government in. Were this but done I verily believe that the Exportation of Wool from *Ireland*, would be effectually suppressed; which now is, through the vast quantities that's Shipp'd for *France* and *Swedeland*, highly prejudicial to the Manufactures and Merchants of *England* and to the Revenues of the Crown. And here I cannot omit taking notice of one thing that in my opinion is also prejudicial to the Subjects of *England*, Namely, the prohibition of *Irish* black Cattle, for thereby the *Irish* are become great Breeders of Sheep, which makes such a stock of Wool on their Hands, that they contrive to

Export

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Export upon a prospect of far greater gain than they have in sending it to *England*, being by the Laws of *England* restrain'd from sending it into Foreign Parts when Manufactured into Cloth or Stuffs &c. Now, were our own and their Wool secured to our own Manufactures, we might afford to give them a better Price for their Wool and Yarn than now we do.

Now it may, by some of the Gentlemen in the *Northern* parts of this Kingdom, be Objected, that the greater Breed of Cattle we have in *England*, the greater benefit will accrew to the Subject in the cheapness of Provision, and that the prohibiting *Irish* Cattle cannot affect the Woolen Manufacture of *England* so as to be prejudicial to it; but on the contrary very Advantageous in that, the greater quantity of Wool is imported from *Ireland* to *England*, the cheaper our Cloth and Stuffs will be made, whereby we may under sell other Nations abroad, &c.

In answer to which, it may be alledged, That when the *Irish* Cattle were brought into *England*, Beef was one Fifth part cheaper than it has been since; the Grazier was also benefited, for that those *Irish* Cattle were sooner fatted, and sold more to their profit than our own Breed; but what is more, the Trading Subjects of *England* were generally benefited by it; for the greatest part of the Money receiv'd for such

such

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such Cattle was laid out in Commodities which they carried home with them, viz. Woollen Cloth, Stuff, Silks, Gold and Silver Lace, and many other Wares. 'Tis true the greater quantity of Wool comes from *Ireland*, the cheaper is Wool in Price, for it sinks the Price of our *English* Wool to the manifest loss of our Breeders of Sheep, which are more numerous than our Breeders of black Cattle; and consequently must sink the Price of Land: But what is much worse, the *Irish* for want of a vent of their Wool in *England*, do contrive to send it into Foreign Parts as I have before mentioned, to the apparent lessening of our Woollen Manufacture, and supporting and encouraging of Foreign Manufactures, which could not otherways subsist, and which if not prevented will terminate in the utter Ruin of it; to the increase of our Poor, the sinking the value of Land, the Diminishing of the Revenues of the Crown, and in short the weakening our whole Constitution, and Strengthening our Enemies. And as to our going with cheap Cloth to Forreign Markets; we cannot be undersold by any, for that the Wool both of *France*, *Holland*, and almost all other Countries except *Spain*, will not make Cloth either for ornament or service, without ours to mix with it, so that, as I have before told you Forreigners will be constrained to give us our Price.

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I cannot but remember what a quick vent we had for our Cloth &c. about 30 Years since, when Wool was near double the price it is at now. Cloth then bore a price equivalent, and then it was that our Merchants Flourished, and got great Estates without Complaints of the dearness of Goods; but then the enquiry was after the best made Goods for which a price was not stinted, and not after the cheapest.

I could readily enlarge on the good and bad services of the Officers appointed by the Commissioners Authorized by Act of Parliament for preventing the Exportation of Wool, Fullers Earth, &c. For I know several Instances both of useful and effectual discoveries, and of gross and inexcusable remissness and illegal Practices among them. But the Sketch I have already given is sufficient for what I aim at; viz. to determine which is the most effectual Method of preventing such pernicious Practices, whether a power lodg'd in the Commissioners of her Majesties Customs, or otherwise. For my own part I think the Reader will join as well as I with the Commissioners of the Customs that gave in the Report abovementioned, importing that the Laws against the Exportation can't well be put in due and effectual Execution, without it be lodg'd in the Hands of the Commissioners appointed and set apart for that

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that purpose only, with a suitable supply of Money to answer the exigences of such an important piece of Service.

'Tis true the Commissioners formerly Appointed and Authoriz'd to act in this separate manner, did not go through with the Execution of their Office, but discontinued and drop'd it. But when the true reason of that is duly weigh'd, 'twill be found no argument against the expediency and usefulness of that Institution; for the only thing that baffled all their Designs and Projects, was the not being able to obtain either from the Treasury or the Parliament, the Mony requisite for Encouraging Officers, and promoting the Service; notwithstanding their repeated solicitations for that effect, and the importuning Petitions of the Clothiers of several Clothing Counties for the same end. In effect, in the Year 1699 they Petitioned the Parliament for a redress of this grievance which rendred all their Endeavours ineffectual; upon which the Parliament then in being, appointed a Committee to inspect the Laws already made, and to consider what Laws were needful to be further made for the more effectual preventing the Exportation of Wool. This Committee ordered the said Commissioners to lay before them their Journal, wherein, were Entred all the proceedings of the Commissioners, with an account of all the Officers

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cers employ'd by them in *England* and *Wales*, particularising where they were Posted, who recommended them, and what Security Bonds they had given for the due and faithful execution of their Trust. At the same time they laid before the Committee an Account of what Seizures they had made, with the value of each Seizure, when, where, by whom, and from whom 'twas taken, with a Schedule of all the Affidavits. They inform'd them particularly what of such Seizures had been compounded for, how the Prosecutions and Informations were made upon 'em, and to what use the Kings part of such Seizures had been applied. All this was delivered to the Committee, and by the Order of the House signed by three of the Commissioners, at the Bar of the House, the House then sitting. Things being thus fairly stated, if that Parliament had not been near expiring at that time, 'twas not doubted but that something would have been done, in making the Laws against Exportation of Wool more effectual, or making some provision to enable the Commissioners to have allow'd competent salaries to the Officers, to have answered all the incident Charges, and carried on the Prosecutions in the Exchequer with more vigor. But nothing being done, the Commissioners were not only discouraged but incapable to pursue the ends of their Com-

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Commission, and the Officers after spending their own Money, were forced to relinquish the service. Upon which the above-mention'd frauds were reviv'd with fresh force, and the good (though imperfect) services related above were discontinued.

The result of all is, that a separate and peculiar Commission for the preventing the Exportation of Wool, would be highly conducive to the Interest of this Nation: And for the readier removal of all inconveniences and disorders, I presume to offer the following Proposals.

## PROPOSAL I.

That the Water-Carriage of Wool should be entirely prohibited, and that all Wool should be convey'd from place to place only by Land-Carriage; excepting what is Imported to our Continent from the adjacent Island. I am very sure that this one Prohibition would contribute in a great measure to the effectual preventing the Exportation of our Wool, considering that most of the successful Frauds are carried on, under the pretence of conveying from one Port to another. Of which I only beg liberty to give an Instance or two, additional to what I've said before. Some few Years ago a Master of a Vessel took in Thirteen or Fifteen Packs  
at

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at the Port of *London*, pretending to be bound for *Southampton* (for Wool Ship'd at the Port of *London* for *Southampton* is frequently dispos'd of as follows.) He gave in a surety Bond of 500 Pounds to deliver the like quantity at *Southampton*, and took his Cocket accordingly; all which one would take to be fair dealing. But so it was, as soon as he was out at Sea, he stood towards the Coast of *France*, and putting into the nearest Port exchanged his Wool for Silk, Brandy, and Linnen Cloth, with some sprinkling of Pistoles; retaining all the while the Pack Cloths in which the Wool had been pack'd. This done he steers to the Isle of *Wight*, where he soon found a Chapman ready to give him Wool in exchange for his Brandy and Linnen Cloth. This Wool he pack'd up in the same Cloaths that the former had been, taking Care to observe the same quantity with the former; and with that Cargo made the best of his way to the Port of *Southampton*; where he produced his Cocket, and the Wool and Packs agreeing in Weight, Number and Mark with what was Exported from *London*, he was thereupon cleared as a fair Trader. Now, if such foul Stratagems are us'd in the great Port of *London*, what may not be done in the many out Ports of this Kingdom, from whence Wool is frequently Shipped for *London*,  
and

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and the places where Woollen Manufactu-  
ries are settled.

Another Instance I have known in small  
Vessels passing with Wool from one Port  
to another, and taking in more at some  
Creek or Station where it lies ready for  
them, for this additional quantity they do  
not carry to the Port mention'd in their  
Cocket; but put on Board *French* Shallops  
that lye ready in the dark Nights at cer-  
tain places, where they make Signals to  
direct the Vessels where to come. And if  
the darkness of the Night favours, they  
lye by one another till they have mutually  
exchang'd their Goods.

But there's a Bugbear of an Objection  
in the way, that some People are migh-  
tily startled with. The Objection is this.

#### Objection.

If Wool were not allow'd to be Salt-  
water born, or to pass from one Port to  
another by shipping, 'twould be a hard-  
ship upon the Manufacturer and Trader,  
by reason of the extraordinary charge of  
Land carriage, which must needs advance  
the Price of our Woollen Manufactures,  
and so Cramp the Staple of our King-  
dom.

Answer

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Answer.

I. That the greatest part of the Clo-  
thiers and Manufacturers of Wool in ma-  
ny places of this Kingdom, have little or  
no Wool brought them by Water Car-  
riage, but all or much the greatest part  
by Land Carriage. So that the prohibiti-  
on of Water-born Wool can't affect them;  
on the contrary the omitting to prohibit  
it may discourage our Inland Manufactu-  
ries, as being by that means more charge-  
able than those which have the opportu-  
nity of Navigation.

II. The chief Buyers or Ingrossers of  
Wool, who supply *Norwich, Hull, Colche-  
ster* and other places near the Sea, can't  
save above Three Shillings a Pack  
by the Water carriage, upon a just parallel  
between the Charge of that and the Land-car-  
riage. If they send a Pack of wool from *London*  
to *Exeter*, the Land carriage will not cost  
above Thirteen shillings; and by Water  
carriage the Freight, Cocket, &c. will cost  
Eleven shillings. Again a Pack of Wool  
sent from *London* to *Colchester* by Sea, will  
cost for carriage Three shillings and six-  
pence, and the Land carriage is but Four  
shillings and Sixpence. The Wool that  
goes from *London* to *Selby*, and so to *Wake-  
field* or *Leeds*, will cost for Freight, Cocket,  
and other incident Charges Twelve shil-  
lings

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( 66 )

lings *per* Pack, and by Land-carriage Fifteen shillings or under. So that I presume the greatest disproportion between the Sea and Land-Carriage is so small, that it will not pay for insurance in time of War, or counterballance the hazard of the Sea in time of Peace. Over and above all which, we are still to remember that the Sea carriage unavoidably damages the Wool, by the Fogs, Wet, &c. to which 'tis not expos'd in the Land carriage: And withal that if all our Wool were carried by Land-carriage, the bulk and frequency of the carriage would in time bring it down to a cheaper Rate, upon the encouragement given to more Hands to employ themselves that way.

'Tis apparent therefore, that the fear of a surpluse of charge arising from this prohibition is groundless. Nay, on the contrary, many great and good Advantages would accrue from it. 'Twould in the First place effectually remove and sink the false pretensions of the Owlery, who lodge their Wool near the Sea under the colour of Shipping it off to some trading Town in the Kingdom, as it appears from the foregoing Instances.

In a Second place 'twould prevent the Frauds of Officers in indorsing and returning of Cockets: For many of our Officers have favoured and abetted the Exportation both of Wool and Fullers Earth from  
our

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our Sea-Ports, as it appears from some Instances gone before.

A third Advantage would be, the reducing the Sloops and Frigats that Cruise upon our Coasts, to a much smaller Number, and so saving the Nation a great part of the Money expended upon that service (a computation of which is inserted above.) To be short, I do not see any colour of Reason to discourage us, but many Arguments to invite us to make this prohibition. There is one Article indeed of the *Kentish* Wool shipp'd off at *Rye*, and conveyed by Sea carriage to *Exeter*, the Land Carriage of which would be dear; but even in that the disproportion is not so great as 'tis commonly took to be, to which if we throw in the danger and damages to which the Wool is expos'd, we can't reasonably stifle an universal and National benefit to save such an inconsiderable Particular.

## PROPOSAL II.

To reduce the quantity sent to the Islands of *Jarsey*, *Guernsey*, &c. to the same Standard that was allow'd by the Act of the 12th of King *Charles II.* which was thought to be more than could then be wrought up by the Poor Inhabitants of these Islands, besides what they have of their own growth:

F 2

And

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And withal to inflict the severe penalties provided by Law against the Shipping or Exporting of Wool from *England* or *Ireland* to the said Islands, from any Port but that of *Southampton*, as it stands now enacted by two Acts of Parliament viz. 12 *Charles II.* and, 1. *William and Mary*: Which Laws want to be put in effectual Execution.

This I mention as a necessary sequel of the first Proposal, for if more Wool be Exported to those Islands than they can Manufacture it must needs go to *France*, and if we are not very cautious in Shipping off what we send, 'twill be made use of as a Cover to unwarrantable practices. 'Tis therefore a seasonable Proposal to have those Laws which are provided to the contrary, put in full and due execution.

## PROPOSAL III.

To keep a Register of Wool all over *England*. This may seem difficult and intricate at first view, but I here subjoin a plain and easy Method of doing it with small charge, and so as not to be troublesome to any Gentleman or Grower of Wool. This I Propose in the following Articles.

1. That                      Days after the Shearing, the Owner of the Wool or his Servant, shall make Oath before some Justice of the Peace in the respective County, of  
the

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the Weight of the said Wool; and thereupon take a Certificate conceiv'd in the following or the like Words.

These are to certify, that on the Day of the date hereof *A. B.* Servant of *C. D.* in the County of                      made Oath before me *E. F.* one of Her Majesties Justices of Peace for the said County, that his Masters Wool shorn did contain                      weight and no more, to the best of this Deponent's knowledge. Given under my Hand the                      Day of                      &c.

2. That Felmongers, and others that take the Wool off the Pelt, shall every                      Months or oftner (if required) make Oath of the weight thereof, take a Certificate and cause the same to be Entred as follows.

3. That no Grower of Wool, Felmonger, or other Person do offer their Wool to Sale before they make an Entry of this Certificate with the Officer appointed for that Purpose, who is to file it, and to give another conceiv'd in the following terms.

These are to Certifie that on the                      Day of                      an Entry was made of                      weight of Wool, belonging to *C. D.* of                      according to a Certificate under the Hand of *E. F.* one of Her Majesties Justices of the the Peace for the County of

F 3                      pursuant

( 70 )

purſuant to an Act of Parliament  
made, &c. dated &c.

4. That the ſaid Officer ſhall give this Certificate in a full ſheet of Paper, to the end that the Owner of the Wool thus certified may take upon the ſame Paper a receipt of the buyer, certifying the quantity bought, and the time when, by which means the Officer may be at any time ſatisfied what is Sold, and what not. And if the Owner can't produce a receipt certifying the Sale of this Wool, he is to forfeit

The form of the Buyers Receipt may be this.

*Memorandum* the            day of  
170            I A. B. of            in the  
County of            bought of C.  
weight of Wool, Witneſs my Hand  
&c.

5. That one or two Officers in a County may be ſufficient to take ſuch Entries, and return the ſame when received to the Grand Register to be kept at London by Clerks under the Commiſſioners appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wool. And that thoſe two Officers give their attendance every Market day in the Market Towns, within the reſpective County, betwixt the firſt of *May*, and the laſt of *July*. Which may eaſily be done, as in *Glouceſterſhire*, for Inſtance, they are to attend  
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At *Hampton* on *Tuesday*.  
At *Tetbury* on *Wednesday*.  
At *Cirenceſter* on *Friday*  
At *Glouceſter* on *Saturday*.

6. That none ſhall be allow'd to Buy the Wool thus Regiſtred, but the Manufacturer or free Wool Stapler, or ſuch Perſons as ſhall be Licenſed by the Commiſſioners for Wool, upon a recommendation from the Company of Wool-ſtaplers or ſome Eminent Clothiers; the Perſons thus Licenſed, giving Bond to the Queen of Pounds, not to Transport Wool or be any ways aiding abetting or conſenting to the ſame. By this means the Jobbers, and ſuch others as Buy up Wool with intent to Transport it or ſell it for that End, will be effectually ſecluded from the Market.

By a juſt Execution of theſe Articles a Register of Wool might be Eſtabliſhed, with great eaſe, and little charge. And how effectually that would prevent the fraudulent Exportation of Wool, is too evident to be further inſiſted upon.

But, before I diſmiſs this Propoſal of a Register, I cannot but take notice that it may be of great Service to the Publick, if the Parliament and Her Maſteſty, ſhould think fit to lay a Tax upon Wool, which I preſume might be done without prejudice either to the Landlord or Tennant. A Tax of one Farthing *per* Pound, to be payed



payed by the Manufacturer, has been computed to amount to Eighty Thousand Pounds a Year, over and above the charge of Collecting . Now in case of a Register, the Register Officers in the several Counties might be the Collectors, and receive it at the same time of Entry, or else take Bond to the Queen payable in Months. All Cottages that do not pay Scot and Lot to the Parish, and keep not above twelve Sheep, to be excus'd.

If such a Tax were laid only for three Years, 'twould not be complain'd on, nor felt, as some other Taxes are which bring in less to the Crown, the charges of Collecting being discounted. I am very sure that no Manufacturer would grudge a heavier Tax than this, if it brought along with it such an effectual Remedy against the Exportation of Wool as a Register.

PROPOSAL IV.

That a duty be laid on all Rough and undressed Cloth, and upon all white Cloth, Stuffs, and other Woollen goods Ship'd off White to Foreign Parts.

Tho' this Proposal does not relate directly to the Exportation of Wool, yet it tends immediately to redress the Grievances of our Woollen Manufacturers : For our Wool is not fully Manufactured till the Cloth or Stuff

Stuff made of it be Dress'd and Dyed; to inforce which there are Laws now in being. The Persons injured by the Exportation of Woollen goods, White or Rough, are the Cloth-workers, Dyers, Pressers, Packers, and Drawers, and many Poor Artificers employ'd under them. To satisfy the Reader as to the loss sustain'd by our Trading Subjects and consequently by the whole Nation upon this score, I shall here subjoin a Computation of the loss arising from the Exportation of one Bayl or five Cloths of our *Gloucester* or *Wiltshire* Cloth going out of the Nation rough and undressed, viz.

	l.	s.
For the Roweing and Shearing	06	05
For Dying, Wear and Tear	03	00
For Plaining, Pressing, Drawing,	} 02	00
Folding, Filletting and Pack- ing		
	11 05	

Supposing 600 Bayles which makes, 6000 half Cloths or Pieces, were Shipped off in one Year, for *Holland*, *Germany*, and other Foreign Countries, the loss to the Artificers for their Labour, will amount to no less than 6750 Pounds *per Annum*. And all this do our Dyers, Cloth-workers, &c. suffer, who live in and about *London*. And it being rational to suppose, that as many Cloths

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Cloths are sent White, as are Dressed, our Dyers and Packers Labour is lost by that as well as by the other.

In short if these Cloths be sent rough out of the Nation, the opportunity of all this Workmanship will be lost to the Trading Subjects. Besides, we ought to consider the Ribbon made use of in heading the Cloth, and many of the tillets made of the Raw Silk, imported from *Turkey* in return for our Cloth; not to mention many other particulars of the like nature, such as the Canvas for Packing, Buckrom for tilletting &c. which come from *Hamburgh*, in return for our Cloth.

We may conclude that Foreigners reap an extraordinary benefit in having our Cloth rough and undressed, whereby they may employ their own Artificers; otherwise they would not have made a Law prohibiting the Importation of Woollen Goods dy'd, under pain of Confiscation. 'Tis strange, we can't be as unanimous in consulting our Interest and Advantage in Trade, as our Neighbours are upon their own Account. Undoubtedly we can never prevent their under-selling us with our own Manufacture, unless we load it with a duty, when Exported before the Manufacture is finished. All rough and undrest Cloth will bear Twenty shillings duty at least on every long *Worcester*, and Ten shillings on every *Wiltshire* Cloth or other coarse

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coarse Cloth : And every white Cloth dress'd and undyed will bear Five shillings.

Some are apt to object that so long as the Wool is Manufactured into Cloth we sustain no prejudice, and that if Merchants are not permitted to Export our Cloth Rough and Undyed, they must shift their hands to some other Branches of Trade; for that Foreigners will not Trade with us in a commodity laid under such a restraint.

I answer (as above) that the Wool is not fully Manufactured till the Cloth is dress'd, that no prejudice but plain Advantages redound to our own Traders from the duty now propos'd, and that as for Foreigners, they can't forbear Trading with us in a Commodity that is not to be had (so good) elsewhere, without we send 'em our own Materials; and further that by having our Cloth White and undressed, they are enabled to undersel us in our own Commodity, upon the account that they can dye and dress cheaper than we, even though the dying Wares are had from us; for the draw Backs upon the Export of dying Wares are so very considerable, that Foreigners carry them from us home, at a cheaper Rate than the Subjects of *England* can use them here: As it appears by the following Schedule of the draw backs allow'd of the Customs charg'd on our dying Wares Imported.

1 Fo-

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1 Foreign Indigo pays im-ported <i>per Tun</i>	}	56	00	00
There is allow'd for the drawback when exported				
Remains Custom to Foreigners		09	07	00
2 <i>Jamaica</i> Indigo Imported Pays	}	24	05	04
The drawback allow'd is				
Remains only		02	16	00
3 Logwood which comes from our own Plantations pays Imported <i>p. Tun</i>	}	05	00	00
The drawback on Exportation is				
Remains		01	00	00

This is sufficient to shew what a vast disadvantage we lie under, infomuch that the Art and use of Dying will be lost in *England* without a speedy prevention; since Foreigners dye cheaper with our own Goods than we can our selves.

In the Year 1698. 'Twas resolv'd in a Committee of Parliament, that if the Duties were not lessened to the consumer here, or the Drawbacks taken off, the Manufecture

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cture of *England* would be lost: And withal that the duty of Aulnage, was a burthen upon the Subject.

To conclude, this Article of the Dying Wares, falls heavy upon us, by vertue of the Granting of Patents. Allom, for Instance, that was before at Ten Pounds a Tun is now advanced to Twenty Five Pounds a Tun, but to be Ship'd off is sold for Twenty Three Pounds.

PROPOSAL V.

To send a competent number of Officers to all the Maritim Counties to guard the Coast. This may be done in a very regular method, and with no great charge, if Five or Seven Commissioners were set a part for securing the Woollen Manufactory, with a sufficient provision of Money for the payment of Officers Salaries, and defraying all other incident Charges. If the first Proposal is receiv'd, importing that all Water carriage of Wool should be prohibited, part of the Money saved to the Nation by that prohibition, which us'd formerly to be spent upon Frigats and Sloops to Guard the Coast, (the amout of which was computed above) would be sufficient to employ a competent number of Riding Officers to guard the Coast, and keep the Wool from coming near the Sea. To

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To shew that this is easily perform'd in a regular Method, and with inconsiderable Charge to the Nation, I here insert the following SCHEME.

NOW in regard many of the Wools and that Wool has been Ship quite to Post some Officers there: And be more proper to Employ Foot-Officers not pass. I have therefore Nominated a Man and Horse, &c. The Arr follows.

Counties Names. Riding Officers.

Monmouthshire I

Glamorganshire I

Carmarthenshire I

Pembrokeshire I

Cardiganshire I

Merionethshire I

Carnarvanshire I

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To shew that this is easily perform'd in a similar Method, and with inconsiderable Charge to the Nation, I here insert the following SCHEME.

NOW in regard many of the Wool-Markets in the Dominion of *Wales*, lye near the Sea, and that Wool has been Shipped of from thence into Foreign parts; it may be requisite to Post some Officers there: And in regard many Places are Hilly or Mountainous, it may be more proper to Employ Foot-Officers, for inspecting into suspicious Places, where Horses cannot pass. I have therefore Nominated but one Riding Officer for each County who shall keep a Man and Horse, &c. The Annual Salaries I think sufficient for each of them is as follows.

Counties Names.	Riding Officers.	Foot Officers.	Salaries per Annum.	Each Counties Charge.
<i>Monmouthshire</i>	1	2	70 30	130
<i>Glamorganshire</i>	1	3	70 30	160
<i>Carmarthenshire</i>	1	2	70 30	130
<i>Pembrokeshire</i>	1	3	70 30	160
<i>Cardiganshire</i>	1	3	70 30	160
<i>Merionethshire</i>	1	3	70 30	160
<i>Carnarvanshire</i>	1	3	70 30	160
<i>Isle of Anglesey</i>	1	2	70 30	130
<i>Denbysire</i>	1	2	70 30	130
<i>Flintshire</i>	1	2	70 30	130
No. of Officers	10	25	Yearly Charge	1450

Object. Some may object that there is no occasion for Officers in so many Counties in *England* or *Wales*. In Answer to which a few Years Experience has shewn that the

Carmarthenshire		2	70 30	130
Pembrokeshire	I	3	70 30	160
Cardiganshire	I	3	70 30	160
Merionethshire	I	3	70 30	160
Carnarvonshire	I	3	70 30	160
Isle of Anglesey	I	2	70 30	130
Denbyshire	I	2	70 30	130
Flintshire	I	2	70 30	130
No. of Officers	10	25	Yearly Charge	1450

*Object.* Some may object that there is no occasion for Officers in so many Counties in *England* or *Wales*. In Answer to which, a few Years since Two or Three of the most notorious Transporters of Wool from *Runney Marsh*, being Prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer and found guilty, fled from justice into *Northumberland*, where before they were discovered, they had convey'd great quantities of Wool from those Parts into *Scotland*, and so to *France*, and being discovered by virtue of a Proclamation issued out for taking of them, fled from thence, and were afterwards heard of in *Lincolnshire* and *Norfolk*, where they had employ'd Agents, and corrupted many: And its too much to be feared, do still lurk about in those Parts, in regard so much of their large Combing-Wool has been discovered to be Exported of late Years, which was not before Attempted.

A List of the Officers needful to be Employed in Preventing the Exportation of Wool in the several Maritim Counties in England, with their Yearly Salaries &c.

Counties Names	No. of Supervisors	Salaries per Annum.	No. of Riding Officers	Salaries per Annum.	Yearly charge of each County.
Northumberland and Bishoprick of Durham	1	150	15	90	1500
Cumberland and Westmorland	1	130	7	90	760
Yorkshire	1	120	4	90	480
Lancashire and Cheshire	1	120	6	90	660
Lincolnshire	1	120	7	90	750
Norfolk	1	120	5	90	570
Suffolk	1	120	4	90	480
Essex	1	120	4	90	480
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1	120	7	90	750
Dorsetshire	1	120	5	90	570
Devonshire	1	120	5	90	570
Cornwall	1	120	7	90	750
Somerset and City of Bristol	1	120	4	90	480

To keep up our Woollen Manufacture, and retrieving our lost Credit amongst other Nations, there's a necessity of regulating the abuses daily committed amongst our selves and our own Traders in that Manufactory, in making Cloth of unwarrantable Goods, such as short Pinnions which is the drossy matter comb'd out of our coarser long Wool. In former Ages our Ancestors were so circumspect and tender of their Credit, that no such thing was allowed to be made into Broad Cloth, but in Kerseys and other narrow Goods.

Another instance of the abuses committed by our Traders in Wool, relates to the winding of the Wool at the time of Shearing; for in many of the Fleeces there is frequently found wound up Sand, Clay Pitch, Daglocks, and other coarse locks unfit for any use; by which means, the Buyer, who seldom or never opens the Fleece at the time of Buying, is cheated one part in eight, if not more. In the Reign of Henry VIII, and Queen Elizabeth, there were Laws made for sworn Winders, but these Laws did not extend to all the Kingdom, only to some particular Counties viz. Northampton, Leicester, Lincoln, &c. I wish that some such Law were now Enacted, since the abuse is disreputable and pernicious to our Trade; and that all Sheep were Marked

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Cumberland and Westmorland	I	120	4	90	760
Yorkshire	I	120	4	90	480
Lancashire and Cheshire	I	120	6	90	660
Lincolnshire	I	120	7	90	750
Norfolk	I	120	5	90	570
Suffolk	I	120	4	90	480
Essex	I	120	4	90	480
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	I	120	7	90	750
Dorsetshire	I	120	5	90	570
Devonshire	I	120	5	90	570
Cornwall	I	120	7	90	750
Somerset and City of Bristol	I	120	4	90	480

Supervisors 13

1600l. Rid. Off. 80

The Annual Charge of the whole 8800 l.

*Note.* The Office of every Supervisor is to direct and appoint the Post of the Riding Officer, inspect their behaviour, and Register their proceedings.

Each Riding Officer shall be obliged to keep an able Man an and Horse, to Ride with him for his Assistance, and to be a Witness to his proceedings &c.

I omit taking notice of the Counties of *Kent* and *Suffex*, for that an Establishment has been in some Years made, and Officers employ'd by the Government, under the management of Captain *Henry Baker*, who is appointed General Surveyor of the said Counties; and has in a great measure suppressed that pernicious Practice of Exporting Wool from *Rumney Marsh* to *France*: by Prosecuting upon Informations some of the most notorious offenders to Good effect, recovering several considerable Sums from them in Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, &c.

Nor do I make any distinction in *England* of the Officers Salaries, although some Counties are cheaper for living then others; my Reason for which, is, that the Commissioners or who ever they are deputed to Act under, may see cause sometimes, to Exchange them from one County to another.

Another instance of the abuse by our Traders in Wool, relating to the winding of the Wool at the time of buying; for in many of the Fleeces frequently found wound up with Pitch, Daglocks, and other things, unfit for any use; by which means the Merchant, who seldom or never opens the Wool at the time of Buying, is cheated in eight, if not more. In the reign of *Henry VIII*, and *Queen Elizabeth* were Laws made for sworn Shearers, these Laws did not extend to the whole Kingdom, only to some particular Counties, *viz. Northampton, Leicester, Lincoln*, &c. that some such Law were now made, the abuse is disreputable and hurts our Trade; and that all Shearers



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Foot Officers.	Salaries pe Annum.	
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	70	for
3	30	for
	70	for
3	30	for

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PROPOSAL VI.

To keep up our Woollen Manufacture, and retrieveing our lost Credit amongst other Nations, there's a necessity of regulating the abuses daily committed amongst our selves and our own Traders in that Manufactory, in making Cloth of unwarrantable Goods, such as short Pinnions which is the drossy matter comb'd out of our coarser long Wool. In former Ages our Ancestors were so circumspect and tender of their Credit, that no such thing was allow'd to be made into Broad Cloth, but in Kerseys and other narrow Goods.

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ed with Ruddle and not Pitch, as is done in *Worcester* and *Herrifordshire*.

To prevent the making of bad Cloth of unwarrantable Materials, care was taken in former times, to fix a certain Breadth and Length in Cloth, after it came out of the Fulling-Mill, the failure of which was a certain sign of unwarrantable Ingredients. By former Statutes 'twas ordered to be Five quarters and half Broad, and a long Cloth 36 Yards long; and these Statutes are observ'd to this day in *Worcestershire*, where the Clothiers are incorporated, and according to the direction of the Law a Seal of Lead is affix'd at the head end of such Cloth, with the water-length and breadth struck upon the said Seal: so that the Merchant or Buyer can't be deceived; for each Sort has a Mark put upon it intimating the proportion of its Goodness in the Wool, as a green Mark on one, a blue or yellow on another, &c. These Marks are the Letters of the makers name fixed on the head end of each Piece. By this means it comes to pass that the Buyer can't be imposed upon as he is in the *Oxfordshire* Cloth, and more especially in that of *Yorkshire* and *Suffolk* which are made most part of Niles and other base and unwarantable Goods.

The Bay-makers in *Colchester* and other places in *Essex* keep to a stinted Goodness in their Bayes, insomuch that the Merchants may

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may and do take them upon Credit; and thereby they keep up a good Reputation both abroad and at home.

But now we are speaking of the Provision made heretofore, to prevent the making bad Cloth of unwarrantable goods, it falls properly in our way to touch upon the Aulnidge or Sealing of Cloth, which brings in a considerable duty. In the imposition of this duty, a charge is given to the Aulnidgers, to attend at each Fulling-Mill, and enquire into the quality of the Cloth made; taking care that the same contains in length and breadth, when out of the Mill and thicken'd, according to the Statute made in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*; and that it have no deceitful Yarn in it, that is Spun from Fell-Wool, or Lamb's-Wool. Such was the original intention of this Institution; but now the goodness of the Cloth is not minded by the Aulnidger, if it does but pay the duty, which indeed is very considerable, viz. a Penny for every Rug, or Blankets, and Bay's, Perpetuano's, Stuffs, or other Wares in proportion; so that a *Gloucestershire*, *Oxfordshire*, *Wiltshire*, and other Country Cloth, that's not mixed pays Three-pence, and a long Cloth Sixpence, and if any of these goods are found without the Seal affix'd by the Aulnidger, they are Seizable by the Officers appointed by the Farmers of the Aulnidge duty. So that the attendance of

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the Aulnidge Officers is now become a nuisance and an oppression of the Subject, instead of a vigilant provision for their welfare; for instead of looking after the true make of Cloth, Kerseys, Serges, &c. they make it their whole business to attend the horse Packs, and Waggon's coming in, and tumble the Goods about in searching for the Seal. If they find no Seal upon the Cloth, or if it be drop'd off in the Carriage, they Sieze it, and lodge it in their Office, where they exact a fine from the owner before they part with it. Nay, they run into shops and tumble all the Goods in the shops, and Sieze all Cloth that hath not this Seal; tho' it frequently happens that a Draper, thro' forgetfulness, oversight, or ignorance, sells the head end of the Cloth where the Seal is affix'd, and so the Seal is gone from him; even in this case they will seize the remaining part of the broken Cloth as being forfeited, unless the Draper can make Oath, that a Seal was affix'd to it, and the Duty paid. But of late Years, if I mistake not, most of the Woollen-drapers, Mercers and other Shop-keepers trading in Woollen Wares, have for Peace and Quietness sake paid a yearly stipend to the Farmer of the Aulnidge, and so are not liable to the visitation of the Officers. And indeed I must say that the impositions laid on Tradesmen by the Officers, were not so much owing

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ing to the Officers themselves, as to the Farmers who employed them, and gave them instructions to act accordingly. But let that be as it will, 'tis plain that the original design of the Institution of the Aulnidge is quite lost and neglected, and the true make of Cloth is far from being minded; so that Tradesmen have an uncontrolled liberty to make bad Cloth of what Materials they will, tho' never so detrimental to the Reputation and Interest of the Woollen Manufactory of *England*.

Another thing that requires our consideration, relating to the true make of Cloth, is the Condition and Qualifications of the Makers. In the Counties of *Gloucester, Somerset, and Wiltshire*, a third part of the Clothiers are Persons that never served an Apprentiship to a Clothier, tho' the Statutes are positive in requiring them so to do: many of the Makers in those Counties are such as are truly ignorant of the true Method and Mystery of either Sorting the Wool, Spooling or Warping the Chain for the Weaver, Milling and rowing or shearing the Cloath when Mill'd, or the Dying, Racking, or Pressing of it. Notwithstanding this gross and scandalous ignorance, they set up for Clothiers, and buying their Yarn ready spun to their hands, do for want of Judgment buy Yarn either made with deceitful goods, or else such as is unfuty in the Spinning, especially

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cially the Warp. Then for want of judgment in sorting of the Yarn thus bought, or for want of Stock to lay in a quantity, they frequently make rouey or Cockly Cloth, which being many times of different sorts of Wool, does not prove in the Fulling-Mill, and so becomes loose and broken in the ground, and consequently not to be brought to a length on the Tenter, or made even in the breadth. But all this makes but a few of the many inconveniences that attend an unskilful and ignorant Clothier. Though 'tis allow'd by all experienced Makers of Cloth, that the staler the Yarn is, the more and better Cloth it will make, if rightly manag'd: Yet our unskilful Clothiers take up new Yarn upon Credit, and make it into Cloth; and then run upon tick again for fresh Yarn, still working it as fast as they can, to make a return to answer their Credit.

I have known some unskilful Makers, come to *London* with five or ten Cloths, which perhaps they have sold in a quick Market, and so gone home again: But when the Merchants servant or drawer went to look them over and pearch them, they were found rouey and broken grounded, and deficient in the length and breadth required by the Statute, which provides that when Cloths are taken from the Tenter, they should be forty four Yards in length, and in Breadth six quarters with-  
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in the list. Now, what is the consequence and effect of this, but ruin to the Maker in the end, as well as destructive of the Honour, Reputation and Interest of the Trade: For upon such a discovery the Merchant will not pay for the Cloth without a considerable abatement, which may be sometimes as much as the Maker expected to have got by the making of it: and so the Factoridge, expences in Town, and travelling Charges, and perhaps the carriage of the goods to *London*, is all lost. But this is not all the misfortune of an Ignorant Clothier. Oftentimes half the Yarn of which these Cloths are made is bought upon Credit, and the Yarn Man expects to be paid upon the Sale of the Cloth; and if he fails in his Payments, he will either give no further Credit, or supply him with bad Goods.

One would think that the People of *England*, should be so tender of the Woollen Manufactory, the standing Treasure of the Nation, as to make effectual provisional cautions against the making or vending of bad Cloth. Twas but a few Years since that the sending of such trumpery of Cloth made in the North, &c. to *Turkey*, was like to have brought a lasting infamy upon our *English* Woollen Manufactures. I presume the Merchants Trading to *Aleppo*, *Smyrna* and *Constantinople*, are now sensible that the *Turks* can distinguish

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stinguish Cloth, and will not buy such as was then sent. I remember very well that at that time, and for two years after, great quantities of our best made white Cloths of *Gloucestershire*, were bought up by *Dutch* Merchants and their Factors or Correspondents, who were very curious and exact in having them warranted, forty Yards in the water, and to have 'em full of Wool and close wove. This Cloth was thereupon convey'd to *Holland*, and there dy'd into proper colours, and dress'd cheaper than it could have been here, by vertue of the drawback upon dying Wares, and other occasional circumstances. This done, the *Dutch* Merchants fixed a Seal with an impression of the words upon it *Dutch made*, and sent it to *Turkey*, as *Dutch* made Cloth. The *Turks* finding it much better Cloth than a great part of what was brought 'em by the *English*, gave the *Dutch* the applause of selling much the better Cloth; and so that crafty Nation screw'd themselves into a beneficial Credit and Reputation upon the real product and Manufacture of *England*; all which affected the *English* Factory in a very sensible manner, till it was happily discovered to be *English* Cloth, by some Cloth sent soon after from *England*, which happening to be made by the same Clothier, bore the same mark of the Name, and so laid open the cheat.

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But to pass from what relates immediately to the make of the Cloth, let's now take a short view of the abuses committed by our Traders in the Woollen Manufactory in the Sale of Cloth; in order to which 'twill not be improper to consider in the first place, the Origin, Design, Conveniency and Constitution of that renowned Market of *Blackwel-Hall*.

*Blackwel-Hall* consists of commodious Store-Houses and different Appartments, for the lodging or harbouring of Cloth and other Woollen Commodities; brought from the several Counties of *England*, and there sold either by the Maker himself or by his Factor: So that 'tis reckoned without vanity or ostentation, the most noted Market for Cloth in all the World. To this Place or Market, do Merchants, Woollen-drapers, and other Traders in Cloth resort on the Market-days, to furnish themselves with what Woollen Goods they want. The Market-days are Thursday, Friday and part of Saturday; the hours are from Eight a Clock in the Morning, to Eleven before Noon, and from Two in the Afternoon to Four. But on Thursday Morning is the chief Market time, for then the Waggoners and Carriers from the several Counties bring in the Cloth. The opening of the Market is notified by the Ringing of a Bell, and so is the conclusion of it. In this Market there's a duty of one

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Penny upon each Cloth, called the pitching Penny, paid by the Clothier or his Factor; and one Half penny *per* Cloth each Week, for lodging in the Hall. The same duties are laid proportionably upon Serges and other Woollen Wares. They are received by Clerks appointed by the Governours of Christ Church Hospital in *London*, to whom the Foundation belongs; and amount to some Hundreds of Pounds *per Annum*, being appropriated to the Children of that Hospital. The *Hall* being Subject to the Governours of Christ-Church Hospital, they call, when occasion requires, a select Committee, to hear and determine any Matters of Complaint or Controversy relating to their Officers, and the admitting of Factors into apartments, &c. And upon choosing Officers, they call a General Court, admitting none but such as are Freemen of *London* to be Clerks and Master Porters of the respective apartments.

Such is the Constitution and design of this Famous Market: And pursuant to the said design, the Clothiers sent or brought their Cloth to *Blackwel Hall*, and there sold it themselves, or left it with their respective Factors, who are Establish'd there in an apartment or standing for the accommodation of the Cloth in the selling it, or laying of it up. And such Factors advis'd the Clothiers from time to time what

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what sortments are proper to be made, and when is a convenient time for them to come to *London*; for which service the Factor is allow'd Factoridge for the Cloth sold. Formerly, our Merchants in general, and others resorted to *Blackwel Hall* to furnish themselves with Cloth, Stuffs, and other Woollen Commodities: Such, I say, was the regular practice of Former times: But now the case is altered, the Constitution of the Market is broke and neglected, few Merchants resort to it, and Cloth is sold up and down in holes and corners, to the great detriment of the whole Manufactory; whereby the Buyers have been countenanced in taking exorbitant Measure in comparison of what was allow'd in former days, as well as making abatements for pretended faults; and further, the Clothier is put to great charge as well as damage, by having more Cloth sent out than is bargained for, by its being opened and defaced, and when the best are cull'd out, the rest returned without just cause of complaint, whereby the Clothier not only loses his Market, but is at great charge in pressing and folding the same up again for Sale. The spring of this confusion and disorder is by the Clothiers thrown upon the increase of Factors or rather such as officiously intrude into that Employment, whose precipitancy and unacquaintedness with the wonted methods of Trade, has indeed been the

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the occasion of irreparable losses to the Clothiers.

## PROPOSAL VII.

That a small alteration be made in a Clause of the Act of Parliament made in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles II.* prohibiting the carrying of Wool but at certain Hours; *viz.* from the first of *March* to the 29th of *September*, between the hours of 4 in the Morning and 8 in the Evening, and from the 29th of *September* to the 1st. of *March*, between the Hours of 7 in the Morning, and Five in the Evening; under penalty of forfeiting the Wool so carried, one Moiety whereof goes to the King or Queen, and the other to the Informer and Prosecutor.

It being highly necessary that the common Carriers and Waggoners should keep their respective and wonted Stages; and considering that by the badness of the Roads, and the shortness of the days in the winter season, they are under a necessity of Travelling earlier and later than the hours limited in the said Act, for that otherwise they could not perform their respective Stages; considering I say, that if they were confin'd to Travel within such hours, the known and usual periods of Markets would be confounded, by reason of the Goods not coming in at the appointed times,

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times, and not only so, but the Price and Carriage of the Goods would be raised in course; for the *Colchester* Carrier, for Instance, comes in on Thursday Night, and with much ado gets home late on Saturday Night, which he could not do if limited to the abovementioned hours, and so Sunday coming he would be obliged to lye by the way two Nights and a Day more than he us'd to do, which can't come to less than an equivalent to a third part more for Carriage.

Upon these considerations, (I say) it were to be wish'd, that the Clause abovementioned, were either taken away, or made to extend only to such as are not common Carriers and live in Maritim Counties. By common Carriers I mean such as Travel constantly from their respective Counties to *London* and so back; who are generally Men of Credit, and capable of giving security for their regular Carriage. I propose accordingly that such common Carriers may have power given 'em to seize all Wool found upon Horses, Carts or other Carriage, Travelling at such unseasonable hours, unless it be in the hands of constant Carriers of the same condition with themselves; and that the Carriers thus priviledg'd to Travel at such hours, should stand obliged once every Year to give Bond to the Queen, with a Penalty of ----- Hundred Pounds not to have any

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any hand directly or indirectly in promoting the Exportation of Wool, or conveying it towards the Sea-side, upon clandestine designs.

Now I am speaking, of Carriers I'll beg leave to take notice of a piece of Injustice oftentimes put upon 'em in the way of the Woollen-Manufactury; some Mercenary and unreasonable Men, give 'em Parcels that are more in weight than is usual and customary for them to be, and yet stand upon the old Foot as to carriage.

For Instance a Pack of Wool that is and ought to be but Twelvescore, is oftentimes Thirteen, Fourteen or Fifteenscore.

*Worcester* whites that were formerly made 36 Yards, do now make 46.

*Gloucester* Reds and Whites, formerly 42 Yards now made 48.

*Bockin-bayes* which made formerly Eighty *Flemish* Ells do now make an hundred.

*Welsh* Cottons which formerly made 32 Goads, do now make 52.

*Pennystones* formerly 38 Pounds now 58.

*Kerseys* advanced both in the length and breadth.

N. B. In these the Dyer, Packer and Drawer are much injured, being paid no more for their Labour than formerly.

'Tis true some Carriers may be apprised of the difference, and make their bargain accordingly; yet others may not: for 'tis usual

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usual to agree for Cloth, at somuch a Cloth or the like.

But as for Wool especially, 'twere to be wish'd, that a Law were made requiring the exact weight to be always Mark'd on the Pack Cloth.

These Proposals I humbly offer to the Consideration of those who sit at the Helm of Affairs; hoping at least, that if the Proposals be rejected some more effectual way will be fallen upon for rescuing our Trade out of the Hands of Foreigners, and securing to our Nation the native Riches of *England*.

F I N I S.



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