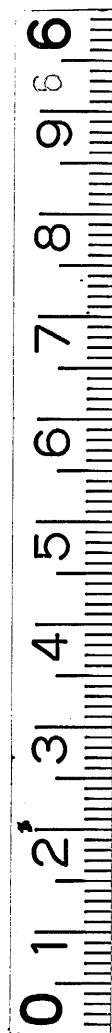


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Great Britain's Glory :

OR, AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Great Numbers of Poor

Employ'd in the Woollen and
Silk Manufacturies, to the In-
crease of Trade, the Enlarge-
ment of the Revenues of the
Crown, and Augmenting our
Navigation.

With the Reasons of the *Decay* of these
Trades, and the Pernicious Conse-
quences which must follow their
Destruction.

Together with a Scheme of Proposals for
preventing the Loss of such Valuable
Branches of our National Wealth, and
restoring them to their former Grandeur.

By JOHN HAYNES.

London, Printed for J. Marshall, at the
Bible in Grace-church-street.

TO THE

Right Hon^{ble} Sir *Richard Onslow*, Bar.
One of His Majesty's most Honour-
able Privy Council, Chancellor of
the Exchequer, &c. Governour of
the Honourable *Turky Company* ;

Sir *Gerard Conyers*, Kt. and Alderman,
Deputy Governour ;

And to the rest of the Worthy Mem-
bers of the said Company.

Gentlemen,

THE Design of the following Treatise,
being to illustrate the Advantages
which the Trade of this Kingdom re-
ceives in all its Branches, from the Woollen
Manufactory, of which you are such Noble
Supporters, by Exporting such great Quantities
of our Broad Cloaths, to the Employing thou-
sands of our Poor, as well as by your Imports
of Silk and Grogram Yarn, whereby they may
make the Nation easie, and themselves opu-
lent, and the many other Advantages we
obtain

The Dedication.

obtain by your generous Undertaking, makes me, by a sort of Natural Instinct, fly to you for Protection of my self and it, against the Malignant Tongues of those who Transport our Unwrought Wooll, to the Destruction of Hundreds, and under Pretence of Commerce, ruin the Nation, by depriving it of those so profitable Branches of Trade, by which this Kingdom must necessarily flourish.

The Support of our Woollen Manufacturies, is as inexpressible on Account of the Profit accruing by them, as the Loss we must sustain by their Discouragement, is ruinous. To You then, as Patriots of our Trade, Employers of our Poor, Maintainers of our Traffick, and the Glory of our Nation, which in so singular a manner, is beholden to your Honourable Company, I inscribe the following A C C O U N T, which my Employment in this Affair, hath capacitated me to know, upon the most diligent Scrutiny, hoping that as it is design'd to open the Eyes of those who are hitherto ignorant of its Advantage, and to refell the Arguments of such who knowingly are its Destruction, so it may be a Means to evince how much I am desirous of the Publick Welfare, and your Esteem, as of all those who wish the Prosperity of our Commerce, as doth

Your Humble Servant,

John Haynes.

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Provision for the Poor, &c.

THE Divine Providence hath not been more conspicuous in any thing, than in endowing different Countries with particular Productions, some in a less, others in a greater Degree, whereby they might be mutually dependent on each other. Amongst these, our Native Soil may most justly claim the Prerogative over her Neighbours, as being the least necessitated for their Assistance.

This is obvious beyond Dispute to any that has a Knowledge of *England's* Fertility, wholesome Situation, and plenty of Grain for Mankind's Subsistence. Our Trade hath been, and is yet, the most considerable in *Europe*; but, to our no small Disadvantage, the *Woollen Manufactory*, the Glory of our Kingdom! the principal Employment of our Poor, and chiefest Revenue of the Crown, is sunk to that degree, (by the sinister Designs, and clandestine Practices of some, who build their own Greatness upon the Subversion of the Trade of their Native Country) that if some speedy Stop be not put to this Abuse,

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Thousands of our Poor must starve, and our Neighbours be enrich'd with That which our Ancestors look'd upon as the only Staple Commodity, and as advantageous to us, as the Mines of *Mexico* and *Peru* to the *Spaniards*. And we may with as much Reason affirm, That *England* is founded upon Wooll-packs, as the *Hollanders* do of their *Amsterdam*, That it is founded upon Herring Bones, from the Profits they reap by the Fishery.

The vast Quantities of Wooll which are continually transported to *France*, *Holland*, *Sweedland*, and other Places Unmanufactur'd, might, if work'd up here, turn to a prodigious Advantage in employing our Poor, and enriching us with the Commodities of all other Nations.

It will undoubtedly be granted on all Hands, that the only way to make a Nation both Rich and Happy, is to enlarge its Commerce and employ the Poor; The first of these will be a Means to make it the Possessor of the Productions of other Countries, and its Traffick very extensive; the other to procure Business for the Indigent, so that the Advantage obtained by Trade may be difused to the lowest of its Members, and prevent their falling into Divisions, Tumults, Rebellions, Debauchery and Thiving, the dire Effects of Poverty and Laziness.

Of all the Labours which exercise the hand
of

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of the Skillful Artist in this our Native Soil, none can be more useful or beneficial than the Woollen Manufactory; This if rightly managed and taken care of, is such an Ocean of Wealth, such an Advantage in our Trade, such an Employ for our Poor; that Nature could not have shown Her self any way more generously than by conferring such a Donative upon us: If this be then so beneficial to our Commerce and Kingdom in general, therefore to every one of us in particular, surely we must be very stupid and supinely dull, to let such an Inestimable Branch of our Profit be snatch'd from our Hands by the Industry of Foreigners, and the Villany of some of our Country-men, who raise their Fortunes upon the Ruines of our Trade.

The Woollen Manufacture surely ought to be preserved; there is no need of Arguments to prove this, one would think; yet upon examination of the Decay of it, and the unwearied Industry of our Enemies to deprive us of this Flower of our Commerce, we shall find that there is no small Occasion for putting our Sticklers for its Transportation Unmanufactured, in mind of the Unnatural Sin they Commit in endeavouring to deprive their native Country of its greatest Glory; and undeceive Those who through Ignorance, or a Facility of believing, are careless of such an Affair.

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The Wooll of *France* and *Holland* is of that Nature and Quality, that 'twill not make Cloth or Stuffs, for Ornament or Service, without a mixture of Ours with it ; And their Care and Diligence to get our Wooll for this purpose, is a sufficient Indication of what I say.

When they have thus clandestinely obtain'd our Wooll they work it up in their own Manufacturies, cloath their own Subjects with it, and supply *Italy, Turkey, Spain,* and other Foreign Countries, which we formerly did. Now besides the Decay of those very Advantagious Trades, we used to carry on with several parts for our Woollen Manufactures which are now very much lessened, by reason that others have deprived us of it : We likewise have an additional Burden, Namely, The vast Numbers of People, which being formerly maintain'd by this Labour, are now reduced to extreme Poverty for want of such Employ : This is altogether owing to its Transportation, which our Neighbours by their Emissaries and greatest vigilance, take care to encourage. Since then we know the worth of this Staple Commodity, let us take the same Care to counterwork them and prevent this Mischief, and not supinely set down, and say with Solomon's Sluggard, *There is a Lyon in the Way.*

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I shall therefore, in the first place, shew, what loss the Exportation of Wooll 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 General Foreign Trade of *England* in all its Branches. This done I subjoin a short Narrative of the Frauds and clandestine Plots us'd in carrying on the Exportation, and an Abstract of such Laws as have been made to prevent it : With a Scheme of Proposals for the more effectual pursuit of that Service.

We have in *England* many noble Foundations for the Maintenance of our Impotent Poor ; But the greatest Number of others, whom the narrowness of their Fortunes oblige to seek Sustenance by Labour, are certainly as much to be taken care off, I mean that they may have Employments to get their Living; least These, who might otherwise have become very useful Members to the Commonwealth, should prove its greatest Burden. It will therefore be absolutely necessary to inform the Publick, what Numbers of Persons are maintain'd by the Woollen Manufactory, and all other the Trades and Manufacturies which depend upon it ; so that it may plainly appear what a Prodigious Destruction the loss of this Manufactory must inevitably draw with it, to the Ruine of them and the whole Nation.

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There are 3 sorts of Sheeps-Wooll different in their Kinds, and apply'd to particular Uses, viz. Our Down and Fallow Wooll, Long Combing Wooll and Fell-Wooll: Of the first is made Cloath from 4 s. to 10 s. per Yard, from the Longer staple Wooll, commonly call'd Combing-Wooll, are made Stuffs of all kinds, and likewise Stockins: From the Fell-Wooll taken from the Pelt or Sheepskin, are generally made Druggets, Kerseys, Penistones, Bayes, Long-cells, Blankets and Stockins. Great Numbers of People are continually Employ'd in making the Goods aforesaid, and is a sufficient Instance of the Loss the Poor sustain by the Exportation of Rough Wooll.

To form an Estimate of the Loss more particularly, let us Compute the number of Poor employ'd in Manufacturing one Pack of short Wooll into Cloth; And this I compute to be Sufficient Employment for 63 Persons for one Week, viz.

3 Men to sort, dry, mix and make it fit for the Stock-carder.

5 to Scribel or Stock-card it.

35 Women and Girls to card and spin it.

8 Men to Weave it.

4 Men and Boys to spoole it and wind Quills.

8 Men and Boy to scour, burle, mill or full it, row, sheare, rack and press it.

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'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 these Means, and without it are reduced to a low Condition; Neither need I compute the Charge the Clothier is at, and the Profit he fetches in by the Sale, for that is various and uncertain.

Let us next Compute the whole Loss Sustain'd by the Exportation of our short Cloathing Wooll, from an Information had from *France* of no less than Fifty thousand Packs of Wooll some years since Annually imported there from *Great Britain* of *English* Growth, (which modestly computed is above 10000 l. per Ann. loss to the Crown in Custom for such Goods as were imported in return for our Cloath) out of which Wooll might have been made 200000 Pieces of Broad Cloth, or Half-Cloaths, containing 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 aforesaid, into good and serviceable Cloath, &c. which otherwise must be supply'd from *England*, our Loss must then be treble the Number of such Pieces, viz. 600000, which would have employ'd a vast number of our Poor all the year round, and thereby a great Advantage would accrue to

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the Manufacturer, Merchant, and the Kingdom in general.

And here I can't forbear taking Notice of the Number of People employ'd in working a Pack or 240 Pound-weight of Wooll into Stuffs for the Spanish Trade. These Stuffs are made of a longer and larger sort of Wooll than that is of which we make Cloth, and commonly grows in *Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire* and *Kent*, to make such a Pack of long Combing Wooll into Fine Stuffs, Serges, Sagathies, Calimancoes, &c. would, upon a moderate Computation, employ for one Week 302 Persons, who will earn 43 *l.* 10 *s.* thus :

7 Combers	03	10
Dying	05	00
250 Spinners	18	00
20 Throwers and Doublers	05	00
25 Weavers and Attendance	12	00
302 Persons.	43	10

Such a Pack, if wrought into the finest Stuffs, would employ double the Number of Hands, in the Spinning, and Weaving especially.

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That there may be nothing wanting to illustrate the Truth of what Loss our Poor do sustain in every Branch of this Trade, I will subjoin an Estimate of the Numbers employ'd in making a Pack of Wooll into Stockins for the Trade aforementioned, together with what they can earn, &c.

10 Combers will earn	05	05
The Dyer	06	00
102 Spinners	15	00
12 Doublers and Throwers	04	10
60 Stocking-Weavers	30	00
202	56	01

Now if we do but suppose 16000 Packs of such Combing Wooll be clandestinely exported to *France* in one Year, (although we have an Account of a far greater number from some, who have had to do in the Owling Trade) it is plain what a vast Loss our Poor have; And the Advantages which Foreigners reap by obtaining this Staple Commodity, will doubtless have very fatal Consequences attending it, in reference to our Foreign Trade.

As it is then destructive to our Poor to have Wooll Unmanufactured exported, so I will now endeavour to demonstrate, That as the said Manufactory doth influence all the

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the particular Branches of our Foreign Commerce, and keep up the Ballance of those Trades, so if the Exportation still continues, it will expose us to an Inequality in Trade, and reduce us so much as not to have a Native Product to exchange for their Goods, but be obliged to pay ready Money, which will sink all at once; let us then but consider what Trades they are which do depend so immediately upon this Business.

And first, the *Turkey* Trade 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, Grogram-yarn, Galls, Cotton Wooll, &c. Now by this Raw Silk many thousands of our Poor are supported, being employ'd in working of it up into various Sorts of Manufactures; as they are also by the Grogram Yarn, which is made into Camblets, Plushes, Mohair for Beds, Buttons and Twist for Button-holes, Prunellas, &c. Their Galls are useful in Dying; their Cotton-Wooll is us'd in making of Fustians, without mentioning the other Dying Commodities, Drugs, Leather, &c.

And here again it falls in my way to take Notice how many Poor are employ'd Weekly in Manufacturing an hundred Weight of Raw Silk in the Broad-weaving Trade; as also in making Ribons, Silver-Spinning and Stockings, &c.

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The Silk manufactured into Garments, is generally Legee brought from *Turky*, in Exchange for our Woollen Cloth, an hundred Weight of which will employ Weekly 297 Persons, viz.

Throwers	70
Dyers	86
Winders	85
Quillers	50
Worpers	26
Weavers	60
Total	297

And these in their different Occupations will earn 88 l. 10 s.

The making of an hundred Weight of *Italian* Silk into Ribons, will, upon a moderate Calculation, employ Weekly 170 Persons, thus,

Throwers	70
Weavers	50
Quill-Boys and Attendance	50
Total	170

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The like Weight of Belendine Silk to be work'd up in Handkerchiefs, will employ Weekly a considerable Number of People.

I think it highly necessary to descend into these Particulars, to give one that is ignorant a just Idea of the Dependance of our Poor upon these Trades which are influenced by the Woollen Manufactory: I will therefore give you an Account of the Numbers employed in working up an hundred Weight of Silk into Stockings. One Man will work up one Pound and an half of Silk in a Week, whereby are employ'd

Stocking Frame Knitters	75
Winders	50
Sizers	28
Seamers	26
Trimmers	06
Throwers, &c.	70
Total	275

I am credibly inform'd by an eminent Silver-Spinner, that it will be hard Labour for one Person to wind two Pound of Silk in a Week, so that 150 must be employ'd in the Winding 100 Pounds Weight.

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The Spinner and 10 Boys may spin into Silver Thread two Pound of Silk in one Week, so that 100 Pound Weight will employ 500 Persons.

This will doubtless be surprizing, if we consider the vast Numbers who are occupied in making of it into Buttons, and other Things, too long to enumerate, but this may be enough to evince us of the prodigious Advantage arising from the *Turkish* and *Italian* Trades.

And here it falls in my way to give the Reader an Account of Raw Silks annually imported from *Turky*, *Italy*, and the *East-Indies*, viz.

	Bales.
By the <i>Turky</i> , or <i>Levant</i> Company, in Weight 160 great Pounds each	2500
From <i>Italy</i>	1300
From <i>India</i> and other Parts	850
Total	4650

Now if an hundred Pound of such Silk will employ in the Broad Weaving, Narrow Weaving, Stocking-Frame Knitting, and Silver Spinning, upon a Medium, 230 Persons in each of them (which are 920 in all) one Week, computing one with another, what a vast Number must 4650 Bales employ all the Year round. Not to mention the *Gro-*
gram

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gram Yarn imported thence, which, upon a modest Computation, is not less than 1800 Sacks, containing each 200 Pound neat Weight.

Now a thinking Man must be strangely surprized, that there should be so much Stupidity in any that should influence them to obstruct so beneficial a Branch of the *English* Trade, unless they will pride themselves in being Enemies to their own Country.

The next beneficial Trade, I take to be *Spain*, which formerly took great Quantities of our fine Meddley Cloth, as well as Stuffs, Serges, Druggets, Bays, Stockings, and other Woollen Manufacturies; for which we had in Return *Spanish* Wooll, us'd in the making such fine Cloth; and likewise Cochineel, Indico, Campaches, Annetto, Logwood and Silvester, all of these are very necessary in Dying Wooll and Cloth for the Market, besides other useful Wares and Merchandizes, as Bullion, Pieces of Eight, Wine, &c.

But since our late Wars, this advantageous Trade is very much declin'd, and 'tis to be fear'd will, in time, be wholly lost; for the Court of *France* have entered into Contracts with them, to supply them with various sorts of Woollen Manufactures, which before they were oblig'd to send to *England* for, and would still undoubtedly do, was not our Wooll exported to *France*, insomuch that

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that these two last Years the Manufactures exported thither from *England*, were a fifth part less than what were annually exported the four last Years of the War. The *French* now make very great Quantities of these Manufacturies, by having our Wooll, which otherwise would incapacitate them to make good Cloth or fine Stuffs. They likewise shew their Design of Menopolizing our Woollen Trade to *Spain*, by endeavouring to engross the Bullion and *Spanish* Wooll, from which we plainly perceive how much it concerns us to preserve and promote our Woollen Manufacturies, seeing our Enemies exert their Power and Cunning to raise themselves by weakening us in the most sensible Part.

Portugal indeed on the other hand hath of late Years taken greater Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures than they did formerly, since we have had no Commerce with *France* in taking their Wines: From this Country is imported Oyl and Soap, useful in preparing our Wooll for spinning, and also in scouring the Cloth; likewise Argle, Shoomack and Brazoleto us'd in Dying.

The *East-India* Company have of late Years also taken greater Quantities of the Woollen Manufactures than before they traded to *Persia*; the Returns from thence are Raw Silk and Salt-Petre, Pepper and Drugs, which are more useful to us than their
Muslins,

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Muslins, Callicoes, Coffee, Tea, and China Ware, &c.

In our Trade with *Russia*; great Quantities of our Cloth are Exported, which in Return bring us home Pot-Ashes, Hemp, Leather, Furs, 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.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, much of our Cloth was Monthly Exported to *Hamburg*; but of late Years that noted and beneficial Trade is very much declined, indeed almost lost; which I cannot but think is chiefly occasioned by the laying open of that Company, whereby all Forreigners are priviledg'd in Trading thither; and by Cloth being made in the Neighbouring Countries, with the Help of our Wooll and Fullers Earth Exported to those Parts, whereby they have been enabled to set up Manufacturies of their own. Our Returns from thence were chiefly in Linnen-Yarn, which, with Cotton-Wool brought from *Turky*, and our Plantations, is wrought up into Fustian Dimities, whereby some Thousands of Poor were, and are still, employ'd in the County of *Lancaster*, and elsewhere, to the Support and Maintenance of many Families. There is also Linnen-Cloth, and many other use-
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ful Commodities brought from thence in Return for our Manufactures.

There was about 35 Years since a great Demand for our Cloth from *Holland*, &c. which is now very much lessened; the Reason of which is thought to arise from the evil and clandestine Practices of our own People, in shipping our Wooll from *Ireland* and *England* thither, whereby they have set up Manufacturies of their own, to the manifest Prejudice of our Manufacturies and Merchants.

About that time also great Quantities of our fine Cloth and Stuffs made with *Spanish* Wooll, and the best of our *English* Growth, were sent to *France*: But they have of late Years been so plentifully supplied with Wooll from *England*, *Spain*, &c. that through the Increase of their established Manufacturies, not only the Subjects of that Kingdom, but also Forreign Markets, viz. *Italy*, *Turky*, *Spain*, &c. have been supplied.

Amongst other Countries, I cannot omit taking 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 Woollen Manufacture; upon this, they immediately forbid the coming of our Cloth to them, which could not be retrieved by our repealing that

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Law, in regard they are now supplied from *France*. As for instance, *Amiens* a few Years ago had but 120 Looms employ'd on Account of the Woollen Manufacturies, but have had for these two Years last past 15000.

The next Grievance I shall mention (and a very severe one) is their getting our Dying Wares from us with less Charge than we can use them here, by reason of the large Drawbacks allowed on them; an Account of which take as follows.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1. Forreign Indigo pays im- ported per Ton	56	00	00
There is allow'd for the Drawback, when export- ed,	46	13	00
Remains Custom to For- reigners	09	07	00
2. <i>Jamaica</i> Indigo Import- ed pays	24	05	04
The Drawback allow'd, is	21	09	04
Remains only	02	16	00

3. Log-

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3. Logwood which comes from our own Plantati- ons pay imported per Ton	05	00	00
The Drawback on Exporta- tion, is	04	00	00

Remains 01 00 00

This is sufficient to shew what a vast Dis-
advantage we lie under, infomuch that the
Art of Dying will be lost in *England*, with-
out a speedy Prevention; since Forreigners
dye cheaper with our own Goods than we
can our selves, which will inevitably be of
fatal Consequence to our Trade, especially,
considering what Quantities of Cloth, and
other Woollen Manufactures, are transport-
ed White.

After such an Account, who is it that
will make any Hesitation to assert this Ve-
rity, That the Transportation of our Wooll-
en Manufacturies (which are very much e-
steemed in other Countries, that enrich us
with their Commodities) if hindred, will
undoubtedly ruin our Trade and Kingdom,
by destroying those Means which might sup-
ply our Poor, fill this flourishing Nation
with Poverty, and deprive the King of great
Part of his Revenues. That this was al-
ways the Opinion of the most honest and

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thinking Men, will appear from what Sir
Walter Rawleigh saith concerning it; his
 Words are these, in a Letter he wrote to
 King *James* the First.

May it please your most Excellent Majesty,

THERE have been about Fourscore
 thousand undressed and undyed
 Cloaths yearly transported.

It is therefore evident, that the King-
 dom hath been yearly deprived of about
 400000 l. within this five and fifty Years,
 which is near twenty Millions that would
 have been gained by the Labour of poor
 Workmen in that time, with the Mer-
 chants Gains for bringing in dying Stuffs,
 and Return of Cloaths dressed and dyed,
 with other Benefits to the Realm, besides
 exceeding Inlarging of Traffick, and In-
 crease of Ships and Mariners.

There would have been gained in that
 time about three Millions by Increase of
 Custom, upon Commodities returned for
 Cloaths dressed and dyed, and for dying
 Stuffs, which would have more plenti-
 fully been brought and used for the same.

There hath been also Transported in
 that time yearly by Bayse, Northern and
Devonskire Kerfies White, about 50000
 Cloaths, counting three Kerfies to a Cloth;
 whereby hath been lost above five Milli-

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ons by those sorts of Cloaths in that time,
 which would have come to poor Work-
 men for their Labour, with the Customs
 for dying Stuffs, and the People's Profit for
 bringing them in, with Returns of other
 Commodities and Freights for Shipping.

Bayse are transported White into *Am-
 sterdam*, and there being dressed and dyed,
 are shipped into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other
 Kingdoms, where they are sold in the Name
 of Flemish Bayse, setting their own Town-
 Seal upon them, so that we lose the very
 Name of our home-bred Commodities,
 and other Countries get the Reputation
 and Profit thereof. Lamentable it is, that
 this Land should be deprived of so many
 above-mentioned Millions, and that our
 Native Commodities of Cloath, ordained
 by God for the Natural Subjects, being so
 Royal and Rich it self, should be driven
 to so small Advantage of Reputation and
 Profit to your Majesty and People, and so
 much improved and intercepted by Stran-
 gers, considering that God hath enabled
 and given your Majesty Power to advance
 dressing and dying, and transporting of all
 your Cloaths within a Year or two; I
 speak it knowingly, to shew how it may
 be done laudably, lawfully, and appro-
 ved to be honourable, feasible, and profi-
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" All the Companies of your Land trans-
 " port their Cloaths dressed and dyed, to the
 " Good of your Kingdom, except the Mer-
 " chant Adventurers, whereby the Eastland
 " and *Turky* Merchants, with other Com-
 " panies, do increase your Majesties Cu-
 " stoms by bringing in, and spending dying
 " Stuffs, and setting your People on Work,
 " by dressing before they transport them;
 " and they might increase far more Custom
 " to your Majesty, and make more Profit to
 " themselves; and this Realm, and set many
 " thousands of poor People more on Work
 " for dressing and dying, and likewise em-
 " ploy more Ships and Mariners, for bringing
 " in dying Stuffs, were it not for the Mer-
 " chant Adventurers, who transport their
 " Cloaths White, rough, and undressed and
 " dyed, into the *Low Countries*, where
 " they sell them to the Strangers, who af-
 " terwards dress, dye, and stretch them to
 " such unreasonable Lengths, contrary to
 " our Law, that they prevent and fore-stall
 " our Markets, and cross the just Prohibiti-
 " ons of our State and Realm, by their A-
 " gents and Factors lying in divers Places
 " with our own Cloaths, to the great De-
 " cay of this Kingdom in general, and Dis-
 " credit of our Cloaths in particular.

" If this Account were truly known, it
 " would be found that they make not
 " clear

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" clear Profit only by Cloth transported
 " rough, undressed, and undyed, Sixty thou-
 " sand Pounds a Year: But it is most appa-
 " rent your Majesty in your Customs, your
 " Merchants in their Sales and Prices, your
 " Subjects in their Labours, for lack of not
 " dressing and dying, your Ships and Mari-
 " ners in not bringing in of dying Stuffs, and
 " spending of Allum, is hindered yearly
 " near a Million of Pounds, so that Trade
 " is driven to the Hindrance of your Majesty
 " and People, by permitting your Native
 " Commodities to pass rough, undressed,
 " and undyed, by the Merchant Adventu-
 " rer.

Thus far this great Man, whose Chara-
 cter is sufficient to obtain Authority, as one,
 who by his great Learning and Travels, to-
 gether with an accurate Knowledge of the
 Trade of this Kingdom, had taken all ne-
 cessary Means to search these Things to the
 bottom. Our Misfortunes of this Nature are
 the same to this Day as they were then, we
 are now ruined by some of our own Sub-
 jects, who use the utmost Endeavours to
 carry off our Wooll unwrought; which
 leads me to shew in the next place the ma-
 ny Frauds and clandestine Plots us'd in Ex-
 porting of it. This is in a very particular
 manner carried on by the *Owlers* in and a-
 bout

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bout *Rumney Marsh*, in the County of *Kent*, from whence great Quantities of our Wooll have for many Years past been clandestinely conveyed to *France*, by the Direction and Consent, not only of the Farmer, but of others of a greater and higher Rank; who having large Possessions, and being great Breeders of Wooll, are so wedded to the Prospect of fordid Lucre, that they contrive to have their Wooll 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 are 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 Second, which made it Felony; but that Law was never executed upon any one Man.

Among the various Stratagems pursu'd by the Men employ'd in this clandestine Service, I'm inform'd that this is one; they observe the Wind and Tide that favours the coming in of the *French* Shallops, and look out from the Cliffs and Rocks to descry them; and from these Cliffs they frequently throw down

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down their Packs and Parcels of Wooll, that they may be in a readiness for Shipping when the Boats come in.

Sometimes they bribe the Officers, or make them drunk; and notwithstanding an Act of Parliament made in the 14th of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, by which all Wooll, Woollen-yarn, and Woollen-flocks, become forfeited, if close packed by Scrues, and other unlawful Engines into Butts, Pipes, Hogsheads, Casks, Bags, &c. yet of late Years great Quantities of our finest combed Wooll for making Stuffs, Stockings, &c. for the Spanish *West-Indies*, have been ship'd off at *Billinggate*, and other free Wharfs, for Butter, Herrings, and other free uncushtomed Goods, and to prevent a Discovery which might happen by the Lightness, they have put into the Casks, Lead or Shot: It hath likewise been wrapped up and stowed between the Folds of Bayes and other Goods.

Nay, they have likewise gone so far, as to receive Money of the Custom-house for its Transportation, I mean by the Drawbacks upon Tobacco and Dying Wares; for they have often stowed a Barrel of Wooll in the middle of an Hogshead of Tobacco, and by ramming the Tobacco hard at the Bottom, Sides and Top, prevent a Discovery, and not only on this have they done it, but in

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Copperas and Indigo, as some now living can certify who were formerly employ'd in such Designs. These are not bare Surmises, but real Matters of Fact, and certainly ought to be taken Care of by the Searchers and other Officers employ'd in inspecting these Frauds practiced in Goods exported. It is also very credibly reported, that no small Quantities are commonly transported to *France* under Coals.

Before I conclude this short Representation of the Frauds and Stratagems us'd in Exporting our Wooll, I shall take Notice in a particular manner of the City of *Canterbury*, where the Generality of those employ'd in the Working our Wooll are *French* Refugees, or such as act under them; for such is the Corruption of that Place, that a few Years ago, being there, I caused 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 Wooll to *France*, and other Forreign Parts.

In the time of the late War, when the Laws were so severe in the Penalties upon all that should correspond with *France*, and this Transportation of Wooll, and running of *French* Goods, could not be practi-

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ced without evident Danger. Nevertheless these Men I am now speaking of, found several Ways to elude the Dint of those Penalties. To mention but one of a great many, they took great Quantities of Wooll, and put them on Board some of our own Vessels or Boats, and when they heard of any *French* Privateers upon the Coast, put out to Sea, and made Signals to them; upon which the Privateer us'd to make up to them under the Counterfeit of a Chace, and after some mock firing, boarded the Wooll Vessel, and so carried her to *France*, as if she were a Prize. When they came to any Port in *France*, the Owlers exchanged their Wooll for Brandy, Linnen, Cloth, and other Commodities; with these they us'd to freight their own Vessel, and so steal home again, and run the Goods. This some of them have confessed upon Conviction; and own'd withal, that the Profit they make of a Pack of Wooll in *France* is so considerable, that if they escape being taken but three times in five, they are still Gainers.

It being now made very perspicuous beyond Dispute, that the greatest Advantage *England* hath, ariseth from the Woollen Manufactory, which gives her the Superiority over other Nations, enricheth her Subjects, and supplieth the Poor; and that this Trade

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once lost, makes our Happiness irrecoverable. It remains now, that I lay before you the Methods which have been taken to prevent this growing Evil; the only sure and effectual Means to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, is the Encouraging the Commissioners already appointed by Act of Parliament, to be vigilant in exerting their Authority, by allotting them such Provisions and Salaries as may enable them to employ and reward Officers.

This Power was first lodg'd in the Commissioners of the Customs, who, by Vertue of Acts of Parliament made in the 12th and 14th Years of King *Charles* the Second, issued forth Orders to their chief Officers in their respective Ports, to inspect and prevent the Exportation of Wooll. But so it was, that either through the Carelessness, or through the Corruption of many of these Officers, the Exportation was still practiced with Impunity; insomuch that upon the Death of King *Charles* the Second, the Clothiers of several of the Clothing Counties, Petitioned King *James* the Second 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 in and about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, bearing Date *June 24th*.

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The Commission was directed to the Governours, Deputy-Governours, and Treasurers of the Merchant Adventurers of *England*, commonly called the *Hamborough Company*.

In Pursuance of this Commission, the said Commissioners met in *London* at *Founders-Hall*, in *Lotburi*, Weekly, and gave Orders 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 disturbed 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 them to connive at the Exportation of the Wooll: Nay, there is good ground to believe that they not only conniv'd at that clandestine Practice, but left their Stable-doors open, upon Compact with the Exportors, to give them an Opportunity of making use of their Horses in the Night-time, for conveying the Wooll 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

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of carrying on so important a Work, did desist from Acting.

Matters being come to this pass, the Clothiers of the Western Parts represented their Case in a Petition unto the King and Council, who thereupon ordered the Commissioners of the Customs to make a Report to the Committee of 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 Wooll; complaining that great Quantities of Wooll are daily Transported to France, by loading it on Privateers Commissioned 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

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we conceive most proper to put a Stop to that 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 Wooll, is a Matter of great Moment and Consideration, as well to the Revenue of Customs, as to the Trade and Welfare of 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 Ann.* at least out of the Revenues of the Customs in the maintaining of Vessels at Sea in that Service, besides an Allowance of a Moiety of the King's Forfeitures of all Wooll 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 Wooll, to certain Persons

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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 Wooll, cannot be duly put in Execution, and the Evil effectually prevented, without some Persons Commissioned as before, fit to be trusted with a Matter of this Nature, be employed therein, with a considerable Supply of Money to be expended by them in the said Service, Two or three thousand Pound *per Ann.* 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 Northern Counties had not then so much Knowledge of the Exporting Trade as they have now.

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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 Wooll; particularly they found *Rumney Marsh*, and the other Places on the Coast of *Kent*, very hard to be guarded; and their chief Endeavours were levell'd upon that Coast.

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 above-mentioned being taken into Consideration, a Bill was prepar'd and brought in for the more effectual preventing the Exportation of Wooll, 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 Remissness and Negligence of the Custom-house 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 this Act, particular and seperate Commissioners were appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, Fullers Earth, &c. The Persons nominated for that End in the Act, were Persons of known Integrity, and

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Interested in, and zealous Promoters of the Woollen Manufacture; but for want of Money to defray the Charges of Officers, and carrying on Prosecutions, &c. they were forced to decline acting for some Years, till at last the Exportation became so open and barefac'd, not only in *Kent* and *Sussex*, but also upon the Borders of *Scotland*, and in several Maritime Counties of this Kingdom, that the Merchants and Clothiers of the Northern Parts made pressing Solicitations to Sir Henry Gooderick, a *Yorkshire* Gentleman, and Privy-Counsellor, one of the Commissioners nominated in the Act, to call together a Meeting of the Commissioners for applying some Remedy to that 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 Money for defraying the Charges of Officers, (upon which Head, the King in Council had been Petitioned, and the Matters referr'd to the Lords of the Treasury) they immediately drew up the following Representation to the Lords of the Treasury.

May

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May it please your Lordships,
Several of the Commissioners appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, &c, having met this Day 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 Traders of this City to the Ends above-mentioned, which we presume e're this time, is laid before your Lordships.

And we are the more embolden'd hereunto by the frequent and certain Informations we have received, that great Quantities of Wooll 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.

Sir Henry Gooderick, Chairman, and one
of the Privy-Council.

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Sir

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Sir William Ashurst, *Kt.*
 Sir Benjamin Ayloff, *Kt. & Bart.*
 Sir John Fleet, *Kt.*
 Sir William Gore, *Kt.*
 Sir Gabirel Roberts, *Kt.*
 Nathaniel Tench, *Esq;*
 Thomas Crundell,
 John Busfield,
 John Haines,
 Edward Bickley,
 Richard Harrison,
 Philip Bickley.

Those Commissioners being deeply sensible of the great Quantities of Wooll transported, and of the Consequences which must of Necessity follow, did send out Officers into all the Maritime Counties, who made several Seizures, which upon Trial, being proved to be legally made, the Wooll was condemned, and the King's Moiety paid.

But the Custom-house Officers in several Counties, especially Northward, where was most Danger, rather discouraged than assisted them in the legal Discharge of their Duty, which, by the Act of Parliament, they were commanded to do.

Upon Notice thereof to their Commissioners, a Complaint was by them made to the Commissioners of Customs, who were thereupon pleased to write to their chief Officers

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Officers in the Sea Coasts of *England* in the Year 1698. as follows, viz.

Gentlemen,

THE Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament, made in the First Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for the better Preventing the Exportation of Wooll, and Encouraging the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom, were by the said Act empowered to put that, and other Acts, against the Exportation of Wooll in Execution, and having desired a Concurrence and Assistance of our Officers, and also as Occasion shall require, the Inspection of the Books and Register kept in the Custom-house relating to the Passage of any Wooll from one Place to another, we think the same reasonable; and being desirous, as much as in us lies, to contribute to the Publick Good, and preventing the Exportation of Wooll, &c. desire and direct that you give the said Commissioners and their Agents Countenance and Assistance on all Occasions for the Service aforesaid; and an Account from time to time of all that shall be transacted in the Custom-house, in relation to passing Wooll from one Place to another; and if need be, the Inspection of the Books and Register relating thereunto, and that you give the same in Charge to the Officers in your Port.

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The Commissioners of Wooll fitted out a small Sloop of about 40 Tun, who siez'd several *French* and *English* Ships with Wooll consign'd for *France*, (besides several Boats in the River) and by the Commanders Industry, took more in nine Months, than all the other Vessels imploy'd on the same Account, did, in several Years, as can be easily demonstrated; and the Commissioners were very well pleased that they had taken such a Method as gave such Certainty of its good Effects. But the want of Money, which might be instrumental to strengthen such a Business, forced them to drop it, tho' they had often petitioned for Supplies, and as often received fair Promises which proved abortive. Neither can it be suppos'd that the Commissioners laid down this Undertaking through Pusillanimity, but the many Hundred Pounds, which they had spent in the bringing it to a good Effect, and the many Meetings they had upon this Occasion, without obtaining any Assistance, induced them to desist from so great and chargeable a Project.

It is undoubtedly certain, that these Commissioners, if they had met with suitable Encouragement, had been able to have prevented the Exportation with much less Charge and Facility; which will plainly appear, if we review the Methods taken by the

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the Government, which were ineffectual, tho' much more expensive. In the Seventh and Eighth Years 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*, with Orders to take and seize all Ships, Vessels, or Boats, that offer'd to export any Wooll, 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 also proved both chargeable and ineffectual. In *January*, 1698-9, the Parliament order'd the Admiralty to lay before them an Account of the yearly Charge of each of those Frigates and Sloops, for Wages, Victuals, Ware and Tare, exclusive of the Charge of the Office of Ordnance. Accordingly an Account was given in, relating both to the Frigates and Sloops, fitted out by Warrant from the Lords of the Treasury and Admiralty, the annual Charge of the whole amounts to 29016 *l.* 7 *s.*

Further,

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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 Wooll out of the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland* into Foreign Parts; by which it was enacted, That the Lord High Admiral should direct and appoint two Ships of the Fifth Rate, and two Ships of the Sixth Rate, and eight 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 Wooll 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 Wooll intended for Transportation, which Charge we may rationally suppose amounted to 25000 *l. per Ann.* which added to the other Charge of Frigates and Sloops, amounts to more than 50000 *l. per Ann.*

It is the Opinion of many judicious Merchants, that the former Commissioners by the Methods they took, would have done more Service, and prevented the Exportation of far greater Quantities of Wooll, if they had but 30000 *l. per Ann.* settled upon them by the Government.

I shall

A LIST of the Number of Surveyers and Riding Officers, deputed by the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament made in the First Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for preventing the Exportation of Wooll and Yarn, &c. With the Counties they were posted in, what Seisures of Wooll was made by them, and the Value thereof; with the Difficulties they underwent in that Service, as well as Charge in obtaining and entering Informations, as also carrying on Prosecutions against the Exporters of Wooll in the Court of Exchequer.

Surveyors.	Counties under their Charge.	Number of riding Officers.	Packs of Wooll seiz'd.	What apprais'd at.	Number of Packs condemn'd.	Recovery there-upon.	Packs rescued from the Officers.	The Value of the Wooll rescued from the Officers.	Officers Expenses annually in keeping themselves and Horses, at 60 <i>l.</i> per Ann.
Capt. William Ingram, Sen.	{ Northumberland Durham Cumberland }	54	105	530	57	140	236	1262 <i>l.</i>	3240 <i>l.</i>
Wm Ingram, jun.	Yorkshire	18	46	236	6	35	53	275	1080
Rob. Moore	Lincolnshire	19	38	214			41	246	1140
Rob. Carter	Lancashire	10	6	56			12	72	600
Tho. Braine	Cheshire	7	3	16					420
Rob. Barker	Norfolk	16	6	35	5	30	36	198	960
John Stokes	Suffolk	9	4	22	4	23			540
Edw. Nordeh	Essex	9	29	146	20	105	5	30	540
John Hamilton	Surrey	4	6	33	6	32	8	44	240
Edw. Anderson	Kent	36	65	362	8	44	45	270	2160
Cha. Webb	Suffex	20	26	148	12	72	21	126	1200
Sam. Spicer	Hampshire	28	55	306	12	72	6	36	1680
Wm. Whotten	Dorsetshire	16	11	62	6	34			960
Chris. Polard	Devon	12	14	79	7	42			720
Wm. Syms	Cornwall	14	12	68	6	33	4	24	840
John Larton	{ Somerset and Bristol }	12	9	52	5	36	25	150	720
John Hughs	{ London and Middlesex }	15	22	126	8	46	12	72	900
17	19	299	457	3791	162	744	504	2705	17940

The Charge the Commissioners for Wool were at annually, *VIZ.*

To Postage of Letters from their Officers	43	0	0
To their Secretary, Clerks, Messengers, and Doorkeepers	180	0	0
To the Cost of a small Sloop, and fitting it out to Sea for cruising on the Coast of <i>Kent</i> and <i>Suffex</i> , and with the Charge of Vi&ualling, Wages, Ware and Tare	676	0	0
Commanded by Capt. John Edwards. See his Services Fol. 38.			
To 17 Supervisers or Chief Agents, at 120 <i>l.</i> per Annum each Man	2040	0	0
To 299 Riding Officers, at 60 <i>l.</i> per Annum	17940	0	0

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Edw. Nordeh	Essex	9	29	146	20	105	5	30	540
John Hamilton	Surrey	4	6	33	6	32	8	44	240
Edw. Anderson	Kent	36	65	362	8	44	45	270	2160
Cha. Webb	Sussex	20	26	148	12	72	21	126	1200
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To 17 Supervisors or Chief Agents, at 120 <i>l.</i> per Annum each Man		2040	0	0
To 299 Riding Officers, at 60 <i>l.</i> per Annum		17940	0	0
Total		20878	0	0

The Loss sustained by the Officers, for want of Money to carry on Prosecutions upon Seizals, Replevies, and Personal Informations.

BY 479 Packs of Wool rescued from them, to the Hazard of their Lives ————	l.	s.	d.
By Personal Informations enter'd in the Court of Exchequer against sundry Persons, for Exporting 2893 Pack of Wool, which would have amounted to, if prosecuted on the Statute of the 7th and 8th Years of King William's Reign, for the Penalty of Three Shillings for every Pound Weight, 36 Pounds per Pack, viz. ————	2705	0	0
	688320	0	0
Total	716025	0	0

N. B. The Officers met with great Discouragements from Justices of the Peace in several Counties, especially *Northumberland* and the Bishoprick of *Durham*, by being imprison'd, and legal Seizures taken from them, viz. *Sir Francis Blake*, then Member of Parliament, Justice *Howard*, *Forster*, *Taylor*, *Gray*, *Colingwood*.

Note, That of 3791 Packs of Wool seized, there was but 162 condemned in the Exchequer, the Remain was either rescued, or not prosecuted for want of Money. The Recoveries on those condemn'd, amounted to 744 l. Two thirds of which was spent in Prosecutions, and the Moiety given by Law to the Crown; so that the Officers had no more than 248 l. The Sloop took 80 Packs of Wool, which was apprais'd at 402 l. Most of which after condemn'd at the Captain's Charge upon Tryals in the Court of Exchequer, lies now in the Custom-House Ware-Houses, being refused to be delivered until the Moiety due to the Crown, was paid; which *Edwards* the Master of the Sloop was render'd unable to do, having expended his Substance in carrying on Prosecutions against the Offenders, &c.

In Page 34, and 35, you will find what pressing Solicitations the Commissioners made to obtain Money from the Government, for paying Salleries to their Officers for their Services, and defraying the necessary Charges that attended their frequent Meetings for putting the Laws in Execution.

From all which Instances, it appears, that the most acceptable and beneficial Services done to the Publick, was owing to them and their Officers; and is to be hoped, that had they received Money from the Government, would have effectually prevented that pernicious Evil, and brought in many Thousand Pounds per Annum to the Government, &c.

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I shall proceed to recite the Laws already made for the Redress of this Grievance, and shew wherein they were defective, and imminently offer some Methods, which faithfully follow'd, may put a Stop to this egregious Evil.

An ABSTRACT of six Statutes now in Force against Exporting Wool, Wooll-fells, Yarn made of Wool, Fullers Earth, Fulling-Clay, and Tobacco-Pipe Clay, out of England and Ireland into Foreign Parts, &c.

Anno 12 Car. II. Regis.

NO Person to Export Sheeps Wool, &c. out of *England*, *Ireland*, or any Isles thereunto belonging, into *Scotland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalties for Sheep Exporting, or Intended to be Exported 20 s. Forfeiture for each, and 3 s. for every Pound of Wool, Wooll-fells,

*lain by the Officers, for want of Money to carry on Prosecutions
upon Seizals, Replevies, and Personal Informations.*

	l.	s.	d.
of Wool rescued from them, to the Hazard of their Lives ———	2705	0	0
Informations enter'd in the Court of Exchequer against sundry Persons, for lack of Wool, which would have amounted to, if prosecuted on the Statute in Years of King William's Reign, for the Penalty of Three Shillings for every 6 Pounds per Pack, viz. ———	688320	0	0
Total	716025	0	0

Officers met with great Discouragements from Justices of the Peace in several Counties, espe-
cially in the Bishoprick of *Durham*, by being imprison'd, and legal Seizures taken from them,
like, then Member of Parliament, Justice *Howard*, *Forster*, *Taylor*, *Gray*, *Colingwood*.

791 Packs of Wool seized, there was but 162 condemned in the Exchequer, the Remain-
der, or not prosecuted for want of Money. The Recoveries on those condemn'd, amounted
to the third of which was spent in Prosecutions, and the Moiety given by Law to the Crown; so
that no more than 248 l. The Sloop took 80 Packs of Wool, which was apprais'd at 402 l.
The Sloop condemn'd at the Captain's Charge upon Tryals in the Court of Exchequer, lies now
in the Ware-Houses, being refused to be delivered until the Moiety due to the Crown, was
paid. The Master of the Sloop was render'd unable to do, having expended his Substance in
Prosecutions against the Offenders, &c.

In 35, you will find what pressing Solicitations the Commissioners made to obtain Money
from the Officers, for paying Salleries to their Officers for their Services, and defraying the necessary
Expenses of their frequent Meetings for putting the Laws in Execution.

In Instances, it appears, that the most acceptable and beneficial Services done to the Publick,
by the Officers and their Officers; and is to be hoped, that had they received Money from the
Government, they would have effectually prevented that pernicious Evil, and brought in many Thousand
Pounds to the Government, &c.

[41]

I shall proceed to recite the Laws already
made for the Redress of this Grievance, and
show wherein they were defective, and com-
monly offer some Methods, which faithfully fol-
low'd, may put a Stop to this egregious
Evil.

*An ABSTRACT of six Statutes
now in Force against Exporting Wooll,
Wooll-fells, Yarn made of Wooll, Fullers
Earth, Fulling-Clay, and Tobacco-Pipe
Clay, out of England and Ireland into
Foreign Parts, &c.*

Anno 12 Car. II. Regis.

NO Person to Export Sheeps Wooll, &c.
out of *England*, *Ireland*, or any Isles
thereunto belonging, into *Scotland*, or any
Foreign Parts.

Penalties for Sheep Exporting, or Intend-
ed to be Exported 20 s. Forfeiture for each,
and 3 s. for every Pound of Wooll, Wooll-
fells,

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Woolls, Mornings, Shorlings, Yarn made of Wool, Wooll-flocks, Fullers-Earth and Fulling-Clay. Owners Forfeit the Ship and Furniture; Master and Sailors willingly Aiding, Forfeit all Goods and Chattels, and Three Years Imprisonment without Bail, one Moiety of *ditto* to the King, and the other to the Prosecutors.

Merchants Offenders disabled from Recovering their Debts from their Factors.

Greater Penalties in former Acts, not hereby taken away.

Offences Triable in the County where the Seizures made, or Offenders apprehended.

Prosecution to be within one Year after the Offence committed.

Any Persons may Seize the Forfeitures, and have one Moiety.

No Seizer may be an Evidence against the Offender.

Ship Forfeited, if the Owner an Alien, or not dwelling in *England*.

Proviso's, Lamb-Skins ready dress'd, Wooll-fells, or Fells with Wooll upon them, Beds stuffed with Flocks, used in any Vessel, Sheep carried for Victualling excepted; and 2000 Tods of Unkemb'd Wooll to *Jersey*, 1000 to *Guernsey*, 200 to *Alderney*, and 100 to *Sark* in one Year, for their own Use; but the Par-

ties

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Exporting hereof are to give Bond to the King, and have Licences under the Hand and Seal of the respective Governours of those Islands, who shall Forfeit their Places, and 100 *l.* if they permit any greater Quantity than before specified, and such Governours of their Officers to receive 12 *d.* for every Licence, and no more, under the Penalty of 5 *s.* for every Licence.

Anno 14 Caroli II. *Regis.*

NO Person to Export Sheep, Wooll, &c. out of *England* or *Ireland*, into *Scotland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalties, All Offenders adjudged Felons.

Offences Triable in the County where Seizers are made, or Offenders apprehended.

Peers Offending to be Tried by Peers.

Prosecution within one Year after the Offence committed.

No Person to use Screws, Presses, or Engines wherewith to press Wooll close in any Vessel, or Wrapper, to conceal and export it: All found so press'd and pack'd up, Forfeited.

No Tobacco-pipe Clay to be Exported under 3 *s.* per Pound.

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No Packs of Wooll to be carried or conveyed in *England* or *Ireland*, from one Place to another, but in the Day-time, viz. from the 1st of *March* to the 29th of *September*, between four in the Morning and eight at Night; and from the 29th of *September* to the 1st of *March*, between 7 in the Morning and 5 in the Evening, under Penalty of Forfeiting one Moiety to the King, and the other Moiety to the Prosecutor, of the Value of all such Wooll carried at any other times.

Proviso's, This Act not to be construed to repeal any Penalty, or Proviso's made in the former Act, 12 Car. 2.

Owners of Vessels, Master, and Mariner discovering within three Months after their Knowledge of any Offences against this and the former Act, shall be acquitted of Felony, but not of the other Penalties.

Justices of Assize, of Goal-delivery, and of the Peace at Quarter-Sessions, and Mayors, and Head Officers of Towns, may hear and determine all Offences within this Act, not made Felony.

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Anno 1 Gulielmi & Mariae.

ALL Owners of Wooll or their Agents intending to convey Wooll from Port to Port within *England*, shall enter the Weight, Marks and Number of the same, before they load or carry such Wooll within five Miles of the Sea Coast.

Penalties, The Wooll not entered, as aforesaid, the Carriages and Horses, &c. wherewith conveyed, to be Forfeited, and the Persons driving, aiding, and assisting, to suffer the Penalties, in the former Acts provided, as Forfeiture of Goods and Chattels, and three Years Imprisonment.

Owners may carry Home their Wooll from Places where Shorn, provided they Certifie within ten Days the Officer of the Customs in the nearest Port, of the Number of the Fleeces, and where Housed: But may not remove Wooll without Certifying such Officer three Days before; which Officers are obliged to keep a Register of such Certificates; and if such Certificate be not made in manner aforesaid, the Penalties forementioned are incurred.

Cocquets for Wooll to be carried from Port to Port, to be written on Paper, and signed by the three Chief Officers of the Port; which Officers neglecting their Duty, in this Act

Act expressed, adjudged Aiders; and to suffer as such, Forfeiture of Goods and Chattels, and three Years Imprisonment, without Bail.

Ports of Export and Import.
Commissioners appointed to see this and all other Laws relating to the Wooll &c. duly executed.

Owners of Ships, Master, or Mariner, discovering within three Months upon Oath before the Barons of the Exchequer, three of the Commissioners for Wooll, or the Chief Officer of any Port, and proving the same, pardoned, and entituled to the Forfeitures.

A Register to be kept at the Custom-house, London, of Wooll Imported from Ireland, and of Wooll sent to and from any Port of England, of which the Commissioners for Wooll may have Inspection and Copies.

Proviso's, Woollen Manufactures may be Exported; and from Southampton only, such Quantities of Unkembred Wooll to Guernsey, Jersey, Sark, Alderney, as are specified in an Act, 12 Car. 2. under further Penalties.

Anno 7 & 8. Gulielmi III. Regis.

ACT 1 W. & M. continued, saving a Clause, that makes Exportation Felony, repeal'd.
Other Ports of Import of Wooll from Ireland to England, besides those named 1 W. & M.

Commissioners of Customs in Ireland to send every six Months to the Commissioners of Customs in England, an Account of Wooll exported from the Places aforesaid.

Certificates to be on Paper, and not Rased or Interlined.

No Wooll, Wooll-fells, &c. to be loaded or carried within five Miles of the Borders of Scotland; but between Sun-rising and Sun-setting, (and no Ships to Export them.

Penalties, Horses, Carriages and Commodities forfeited, the Ship and such Goods, with treble the Value thereof, and treble the Costs of Suit. And further Penalty upon the Hundred and Port where carried or exported, of 20 l. if the Wooll be under the Value of 10 l. but if of greater Value, then treble that Value to be forfeited.

Execution to be had against two or more Persons inhabiting any Hundred or Port aforesaid.

Aiders and Abettors, shall suffer three Years Imprisonment without Bail.

Owners

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Owners and their Aiders to answer treble the Value of the Penalties charged on the Inhabitants within the Hundred or Port aforesaid; and treble Costs of Suit.

Jury to be of any other County than that wherein the Fact was committed.

The three first Aiders informing, indemnify'd.

Penalty of five Years Imprisonment upon Persons compounding with Hundreds or Ports; who may be Sued for the same Forfeitures, as if no Composition had been made.

Admiralty to appoint Cruizers who may seize all Vessels Exporting Wooll, &c.

Anno 9 & 10 Gulielmi III. Regis.

ACT of 7 W. 3. continued.

No Fullers-Earth or Scouring-Clay to be Exported out of *England* into *Scotland*, *Ireland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalty of one Shilling for every Pound Exported.

All Owners of Wooll, Shorn or Hous'd in *Kent* and *Sussex*, within ten Miles of the Sea, shall give Notice three Days before removal of it, to the Custom-Officers of the next Port, and take a Certificate from them.

Penalty,

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Penalty, all Wooll not so entred, or removed without Certificate, to be Forfeited, and 3 s. per Pound besides.

All Owners of Wooll residing within fifteen Miles of the Sea in *Kent* and *Sussex*, shall first give Bond to the King, that they will not Sell the same within fifteen Miles of the Sea.

Penalties, Such Wooll not enter'd may be seized, and 3 s. in the Pound forfeited besides.

Wooll removed a second time in the Counties aforesaid, after Housed, shall be seized, and 3 s. for every Pound forfeited.

Persons who claim unenter'd Wooll, to give good Security to pay treble Costs and Damages above the Penalties and Forfeitures aforesaid.

Agents and Supervisors, how to defend themselves, if Sued for putting this Act in Execution.

Forfeitures by this Act one Third to the King, and two Thirds to the Suer or Prosecutor.

Prosecution may be in three Years after the Offence committed.

All Owners of Wooll within 15 Miles of *Scotland*, to give the Number of their Fleeces, where Housed, to Persons appointed to receive the Account, by the first of *W. & M.* and not remove any Wooll without their Licence.

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Penalties, all unentered and unlicensed Wooll Forfeited, and 3 s. besides for every Pound.

Winchelsea Hundred in respect of this Act to be deem'd two Hundreds.

Anno 10 & 11 Gulielmi III. Regis.

NO Person to Export out of *Ireland*, but only into *England* or *Wales* any Wooll, Wooll-fells, Shorlings, Mortlings, Wooll-flocks, Worsted, Bay or Woollen-Yarn, Cloth, Serge, Bays, Kerseys, and Frizes, Druggets, Cloth-Serges, Shalloons, or other Drapery Stuffs, or Woollen Manufactures.

Penalties, the Wooll, &c. so Exported, &c. to be Forfeited, and five hundred Pounds for each Offence. The Ship, &c. to be Forfeited with all her Tackle. The Masters, Mariners, Porters, &c. assisting, to Forfeit 40 l. one Moiety to the Prosecutor in *England* or *Ireland*, the other to the Linnen Manufacture in *Ireland*.

Acquittals or Indictments in *Ireland*, no Bar to Prosecutions here.

Any Persons may Seize and Convey to the King's next Ware-house all such Wooll, &c. and the Ship may also be seized.

Bond

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Bond to be given for Wooll, &c. from *Ireland*, under Penalty of forfeiting the Ship.

A Register to be kept at the Custom-house, *London*, of the Wooll, &c. so Imported.

Cockets and Warrants for Transporting such Goods from *Ireland*, shall be written on Paper and Sign'd, and the Certificates of Landing, sign'd also by three of the Port Officers. The Goods to be search'd both at Shipping and Landing: And the Quantities, Qualities, &c. Indorsed on the Cockets, Warrants and Certificates.

The Quantities and Qualities of such Goods and Duplicates of the Bonds, &c. to be transmitted from *Ireland* to *England*.

The Certificates to be written on Paper, and not Obliterated or Interlined.

Such Goods shall be Exported only from *Dublin*, *Waterford*, *Tongball*, *Kingsale*, *Cork* and *Drogheda*, and Imported only at *Biddiford*, *Barstable*, *Minhead*, *Bridgwater*, *Bristol*, *Milford-Haven*, *Chester* and *Liverpool*.

Commissioners and Officers in *Ireland* offending against this Act, forfeit Office and 500 l.

The Offences upon this Act to be Tried where the Goods are Shipped, or where the Offender or Ships are seized.

Persons Sued to plead the General Issue, &c. and to have treble Costs.

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Lawful to Import Wooll, &c. from *Dublin*, &c. to *Biddiford*, &c. Notice being given thereof, and Bond in treble the Value, and a Licence taken for Landing thereof.

Forfeiture of the Bonds for Wooll, &c. so Exported, not assignable.

The Admiralty to appoint Cruizers to seize all Ships Exporting Wooll to Foreign Parts.

Wooll, Ships, &c. so Seized, to be Condemned and Sold by Inch of Candle, with the Guns, Tackle, &c. one fourth part to the Commander, another to the Officers, another to the Mariners, the other to the King.

Commanders of Ships offending herein to forfeit their Pay, suffer six Months Imprisonment, and incapable of Serving in the Navy.

After the first of *December*, 1699. the Wooll, &c. of the *English* Plantations in *America*, not to be laid on Board any Ship there, or laden on any Horse, Cart, &c. to be Exported thence to any Place whatsoever, under the Penalties and Forfeitures for the like Offences in *Ireland*: And the Governors, &c. of the Plantations, are to put this Act in Execution.

Persons offending against this Act, or any other, for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, to be prosecuted in any the Courts at *Westminster*.

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The Lords Justices of *Ireland* to direct, That the Judges in *Ireland* give this Act in Charge at the Assizes, which Judges are to take Account of the Execution thereof, and acquaint the Lords Justices therewith, who shall lay an Account thereof yearly before the King in Council.

The next Thing under Consideration is the Deficiency of the Laws already made.

1. The want of a Fund to defray the Charge of prosecuting Offenders, and fully executing the Laws.

2. The Prosecutions not being at the Charge of the Crown.

3. The want of Corporal Punishment, as well as Fine and Imprisonment.

4. Want of suitable Rewards to the Discoverers.

5. Not restraining Water Carriage.

6. Not lessening the Quantities allowed to the Islands of *Guernsey* and *Jersey*.

7. The want of Registering Wooll, especially in all the Counties on the Sea Coasts, and brought for Sale to Publick Markets, and not sold in private Contracts, &c.

8. That the same Care be taken in *Ireland* as in *Great Britain*, both by Land and Sea.

9. For

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9. And lastly, For want of small Sloops to search into Creeks, and the Entrance of Navigable Rivers leading to the Sea, &c.

Before I enter upon my Proposals, it may not be amiss to shew the Advantages the *French* reap by our Wooll in the many Manufactures they have successfully set up to our Loss, without which, 'tis impossible to be carry'd on: All this is not felt by the Clothier, but the Merchant too; and all other Dependants are severely touch'd in the most sensible Part.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, the *French* King gave Countenance to his Subjects in *Languedoc* for the Carrying on the Woollen Manufacture there by raising a Fund to support the Work. The Cloaths there made were in Imitation of our Broad-Cloaths made in *Gloucestershire*, *Wiltshire*, &c. for our *Levant* Trade, &c. And there are also made great Quantities of Mix'd or Medley Cloth, from 10 s. to 16 s. per Yard, in Breadth one Yard three Quarters, in Imitation of our *Somersetshire* and *Gloucestershire* fine Cloaths; and in other Parts of *France*, I am informed is made a lower Sort of mix'd Cloath, from 6 to 8 s. per Yard, which is mostly shipp'd off for *Italy*.

They make Drabs also for Cloathing their Armies. In other Parts again, they make narrow Goods in Imitation of our double Douzens,

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Douzens, from 2 s. to 3 s. per Yard, and Kerseys in Imitation of those of *Yorkshire*. They make also Bayes in Imitation of our *Colechester* which are for the most part sent to *Spain*. Kerseys also in Imitation of those made in *Devonshire* and *Leeds*: Besides all which, they make Serges, Grazets, and other Stuffs, in Imitation of our *Norwich* Stuffs; also Ratins, Shalloons, Durances, and many others, too tedious to enumerate.

In *Picardy*, I am inform'd is a large Manufactory erected at the *French* King's Charge, where there is no Encouragement wanting to *English* Artists, many whereof have been allured over thither to instruct them in mixing their Wooll, &c. The Wooll they used is generally *Spanish*, and the finest of our Wooll, commonly called *Leimster*, of which they make Cloaths upward of 16 s. per Yard, worn by their Nobility and Gentry; with which they always us'd to be supply'd from *England* in and before the Reign of King *Charles* the Second.

I will here give one Instance of the *Swedes* setting up Manufactures, by the Help of our *English* and *Irish* Wooll, in the Year 1702. A Letter came from a Merchant in *Stockholm* to a Merchant in *London*, with Orders to buy up a considerable Parcel of mix'd Cloath; but before his Correspondent here had bought the Cloath, he receiv'd another Letter from him, countermanding

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manding his former Order, informing him, That very lately a *Scotch* Ship had arrived there with 80 Bags of *English* and *Irish* Wooll, in each of which was contained three *English* Packs, which would be work'd up there time enough to answer the End design'd by the before-mentioned Cloath.

One of their Manufacturies, I am inform'd, is set up at *Norcopen*, and supply'd with Wooll from *Scotland* by two noted Persons (which, I at present, omit to name) of which they make White Cloath, and dye into Colours for the *Levant* Trade.

P R O P O S A L.

That the Water-Carriage of Wooll be entirely prohibited, (except what is allow'd by Parliament to be transported from *Southampton* to the Islands of *Fersey*, *Guernzey*, *Sark* and *Alderney*) and that all Wooll be convey'd from Place to Place by Land-Carriage only; except what is imported to *England* from *Ireland*, and other adjacent Islands, or passing cross Rivers for the Use of Manufactory. I am very confident that this one Prohibition would contribute in a great Measure to the effectual preventing the Exportation of our Wooll, and Yarn made of Wooll, considering that most of the successful Frauds are carried on, under the Pretence of conveying it from one Port to another for the Use

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Use of the Manufacturies; when, in Truth, all, or the greatest Parts of the Wooll, bought by them, is convey'd by Land-Carriage both to the Western and Northern Parts.

It is objected against this, that if Wooll be not allowed to pass by Sea from one Port to another, it will be an Hardship upon the Manufacturers and Traders in Wooll, by reason of the Dearness of the Land-Carriage, which must advance the Price of our Woollen Manufactures, and so prejudice the Staple of our Kingdom; and some farther alledge, that the Badness of the Roads in some Counties will not permit the Waggon to travel, especially in *Kent*.

A N S W E R.

ad. That the Manufacturers and fair Traders are so far from complaining against this additional Charge of Carriage, that they would readily pay it, and much more, if it would any way contribute to the lessening, or effectually preventing the Exportation of Wooll. We may reasonably suppose that the more of our Manufacturies are made, and vended abroad, the Poor would be so much the more employ'd at home, and Wooll advance in Price to the Benefit of the Grower and Farmer: And likewise that the Increase of Waggon and other Carriages, for its Con-

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veyance by Land, would be farther Beneficial to the Landed Interest, the Farmer, Inn-keeper, and others employ'd under them, by the greater Consumption of Hay, Corn, Grass and other Provisions. And the Manufacturer would be benefitted by selling his Cloth, and other Woollen Manufactures at better Prices, and in greater Quantities, especially *France* were hereby so cramp'd, that it could not supply *Spain*, *Turky*, *Italy*, and other Foreign Parts, with Woollen Manufactures, as they have done of late Years by the Increase of their own by the Exportation of *English* and *Irish* Wooll.

First, Then it is apparent the fear of a Surplusage of Charge arising from this Prohibition is groundless, for many great and good Advantages might be reap'd from it; 'twould remove and sink the false Pretences of the Owers, who lodge their Wooll near the Sea, under Colour of shipping it for some Trading Town in the Kingdom.

Secondly, It would prevent the Frauds of Officers in indorsing and returning of Cockets, by which many of them have favoured the Exportation of Wooll from Sea-Ports, which was taken Notice of in an Act of Parliament made in the first Year of *William* and *Mary*.

Thirdly, 'Twould reduce the Frigates and Shallops established by Act of Parliament, to a much smaller Charge, and thereby save the

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Government above Thirty Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* which would defray the Charges of Riding Officers, and remove many other Inconveniencies which do arise from the Water-Carriage of Wooll. I do not see any Colour or Reason to discourage us from, but many Arguments to invite us to, making such a Prohibition: There is indeed one Article concerning the *Kentish* Wooll shipped at *Rye* for *Exeter*, the Land-Carriage of which would be dear, but even in that, the Disproportion is not so great as 'tis commonly taken to be: And if we consider the Danger and Damage to which the Wooll is expos'd by drawing in the Fogs, and taking Salt-water, we cannot reasonably, by a trifling Objection, stifle an Universal and National Benefit to save such an inconsiderable Particular, if compared with the Advantage which will arise from it.

O B J E C T I O N.

But some may say, How can there be any Fraud committed by conveying Wooll by shipping from one Port to another, when Bond is given by two sufficient Persons to the chief Officer of the Customs belonging to the Port, in double the Value of the Wooll, to deliver the same at the Port to which it is consign'd?

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A N S W E R.

There are some living, that were formerly Masters of Vessels employ'd in the Coasting Trade, have own'd, they have taken in Wooll in several Ports in *Kent*, and given Bond to deliver it at *Exeter*; but when out at Sea, have steer'd to the nearest Port in *France*, and shifted the Packcloaths on which the N^o mark'd and Weight were set, and with these Cloaths have gone back to *Kent*, and fill'd them again with the same Weight of Wooll, and deliver'd with the Cocket, or Certificate at *Exeter*; by which his Bondsmen have been discharged, and himself look'd on as a fair Trader. This hath been frequently practiced (and it's to be fear'd still is) in the Port of *London*: From all which Instances I will leave all wise Men to judge how far the Exportation of Wooll may be prevented by restraining the Water-Carriage.

P R O P O S A L II.

That all the Wooll shorn in all Counties bordering on the Sea, and all Fell-Wooll shall within Days after the Sheering, be brought to such Place or Places, where a Hall or Store-house shall be erected for the harbouring thereof, and certain Market-Days appointed for Sale; proper Officers to attend, and

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and to act according to Power given by any Owner for him in his Absence, to sell, &c. And it may not be amiss that a small Duty be laid to defray the expedient Charge of the Ware-house Room, Clerks, Porters, and other necessary Attendants; which may be done with very insignificant Charge to the Government, and would, its presum'd, redound to the Advantage of the Growers of Wooll; for the variety of Chapmen, which must undeniably be in publick Markets, beyond what can be in private Contract, may give greater Advantage to the Disposer, who by this becomes a better Judge of the Consumption, and therefore Demand of his Commodity; each Buyer at the same time having in his View a proper Commodity for his Purpose, which certainly must be advantageous to him also.

Several Persons have given in to this present Parliament Proposals for a general Register of Wooll throughout *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, by tracing it from the Grower to the Manufacturer, which might conduce to the Prevention of its Exportation; but I doubt the Difficulty and Charge that must necessarily attend that Project, will not be easily overcome, especially in Inland Counties, where Manufacturies are, proper Markets for Wooll settled, &c. unless sworn Wooll-winders were appointed in all Counties,

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ties, which Winder might (I confess) take an Account of the Fleeces by him wound, their Weight, and for whom, and give the same in Writing to the Wooll-Surveyor of that County, and he transmit it in Writing to the Commissioners for Wooll in *London*, with the Owner's Name, and to whom dispos'd of, with their Places of Abode (where it may be enter'd in a general Register, kept for that Purpose, to be inspected by any Person desiring it) whereby it may be known, whether the Buyers be Manufacturers, Wooll-Staplers, and other fair Traders, or such Enemies to our Nation we are complaining against. The Officer to give a Permit, or Sufferance with such Wooll for its Conveyance, inserting therein the Carrier's Name to whom consigned, and what County and Place; with a Limitation of certain Days for travelling, which Permit should be taken from the Carrier by a proper Officer of that District to which he travels; the Carrier giving Notice for such Officer to make an Entry before he unload, or deliver the Wooll to the Person it's consign'd to.

And here I cannot omit taking Notice, what great Quantities of Wooll are daily brought within the Liberties of the City of *London*, and harboured in Inns, Stables, Out-houses, and other obscure Places, where private Contracts have been frequently made by

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by such as buy it up for Transportation, removing it by Carts, or on Horses Backs, near, or upon, the River *Thames*, until they can find an Opportunity to ship it contrary to Law. For preventing which Evil, and unwarrantable Practices, it is conceiv'd the Reviving and Incouraging of that ancient Wooll Mart at *Leaden-Hall*, which may be done without very great Trouble, there being now a Register-Clerk, with other Officers attending, for loading and unloading, and weighing in and out all Wooll coming to the said Mart, where a small Duty is now paid for laying it up, safe keeping, &c. It is proposed that all Wooll coming within the Cities and Suburbs of *London* and *Westminster* for Sale (other than what is brought to the Wooll-Stapler, or Manufacturer) may be brought to *Leaden-Hall*, and in Default whereof, that a Penalty of *100* be paid for every Pack of Wooll not brought to the said Market; or that every such Person as shall harbour or conceal it, contrary to Law, may be deemed (and suffer the Penalties inflicted by Laws already made against the) Transporters thereof.

PROPOSAL III.

Great Mischiefs arising from the Numbers of Men travelling arm'd to convey the Waggon, Horses, and other Carriages laden with Wooll,

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Wooll, under Pretence of securing it; it's desir'd that not above three Men shall be allow'd to travel with any Waggon, or other Carriage, or with a Gang of Horses; and if any are found arm'd with such Waggon, or other Carriage so loaden, they shall be deemed Transporters, and suffer as such: And that all Wooll should be pack'd according to the ancient Custom, which is 240 Pound Weight in one Cloath, which we call a common Pack, and not to exceed that Weight, without Licence first had and obtain'd from the Commissioners of Wooll, or the Surveyor of the County, where and when such Wooll is shorn, and that only for the Ease and Accommodation of the Farmer, or Grower of Wooll, in conveying the same to the Housing thereof. And that all Wooll sent by common Carriers to the Stapler, or Manufacturer, &c. hath the neat Weight mark'd on the Pack-Cloath. And that such common Carrier, that through the Badness of the Road, or other Hindrance, cannot keep his Stage and come in to his Inn within the Hour limited in the Act of Parliament, made in the 14th Year of King Charles the Second, entituled *An Act*, &c.

that then in such Case he shall give his Security-Bond of Hundred Pounds, for the

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the true and faithful Delivering the Wooll to whom it's consigned, his Servant or Servants.

PROPOSAL IV.

That if all Prosecutions were carried on at the Charge of the Crown, it would very much conduce to the preventing the Running of Wooll. The Reasons are manifest.

REASON I.

Whereas upon legal Seizures made and delivered into the King's Ware-house, sham Claims have been entred, and sham Actions brought against the Officer so seizing; after his having been at great Charge in preparing for Trial, such Claimant hath absented himself, and the Wooll been condemned at the farther Charge of the Officer, who expected to have had his Moiety paid him, as the just Reward of his Service; but that hath been deny'd him, and the Wooll also, unless he first paid the Moiety due to the Crown, which he is render'd unable to do, by reason of the great Charge he must be at in appraising and condemning it in the Court of Exchequer; (great Part, if not all, that Money, it is very probable he was forc'd to borrow;) it is therefore humbly offer'd that all Prosecutions hereafter be at the Charge of the Crown.

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And whereas her late Majesty in her Proclamation gave a Reward of 40 *l.* to all such as should seize or hinder the Exportation of Wooll, as in Cases of Highway-Men; it is humbly thought that it would be of much greater Advantage to the Publick, and Encouragement to the Officer, if 5 *l.* were given for every Pack of Wooll seized and condemned by any Person whatsoever, over and above what is already allow'd by Act of Parliament.

REASON II.

That an Owler or Transporter of Wooll may send a Pack to the Sea-side, and give Notice to an Officer that it may be seized, the Government is hereby defrauded without any Benefit, and this is rather an Encouragement to the Carrying on these clandestine Designs than a Prevention; whereas if the 5 *l.* a Pack were given, it would deter them much more, none daring trust another, least he should be discovered by his Fellows for the Reward; and I cannot think it amiss to grant a Pardon as well as Reward to any Person who has been concern'd in any such Practice, to discover the Methods that have been us'd, that they may be the better prevented for the future.

What

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What I shall next propose is,

First, A sufficient Number of Sloops for Guarding the Coasts of Great Britain by Sea, &c.

Secondly, The Form of a Scheme of what Officers are necessary for the doing of it by Land throughout Great Britain; which I hope will effectually prevent the Exportation of Wooll, to the Recovery of our much lost Trade in the Woollen Manufactory and Merchandize.

PROPOSAL V.

That the Sloops, I propose, may be of real Service in this weighty Affair, not only at Sea, but in Bays, Creeks, and Rivers; I hope the following Scheme of their several Stations for Cruising will appear to be reasonable. The Scheme was sent me by two Masters of Vessels, which, according to their Request in the following Letter, I here insert.

K 2

S I R,

S I R,

“YOUR long Experience in the Woollen
 “Manufactures, and unwearied Dili-
 “gence and Expence, both in a publick and
 “private Capacity, to promote the Growth
 “and Increase of it, induces us to recom-
 “mend the Printing of the inclosed Scheme
 “in the Book you are preparing, which is,
 “we hope, a sufficient Number of Sloops
 “to guard the Coast for preventing the Ex-
 “portation of Wooll, in their proper Sta-
 “tions; and ’tis hop’d will prove very ef-
 “fectual to that End. We are,

S I R,

Your Servants to Command,

Robert Scott,
 James Crockford.

A

A SCHEME of the Cost of Man-
 ing and Victualling 22 Sloops, for
 guarding the Coasts of Great Britain,
 to prevent the Exportation of Wooll,
 and Smuggling Foreign Goods imported.

Number of Sloops	Number of Men	Captain's Pay	Mate's Pay	Boatwain and Gunner	Carpenter	Number of able Seamen	Each Man's Yearly Pay	Their whole Pay per Annum	Victualling, Fire, and Candle, &c.	The Total Charge An- nually
1	25	100	30	20	20	21	15	315	370	10 00 855
1	20	100	30	20	20	16	15	240	296	10 00 700
1	15	100	30	20	20	11	15	165	222	15 11 557

2 Sloops of 25 Men, the	}	l.	s.	d.
Yearly Charge amounts		2566	10	00
to				
6 ditto, of 20 Men each,		4238	8	00
13 ditto, of 15 Men each,		7244	16	11
22 Sloops. Total Charge Annually		14049	14	11

Their

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Their Station for Cruising.

2 of 15 Men each from the Isle of Shippy to Dover.

1 of 20 } Men from Dover to Beachy.
1 of 25 }

1 of 15 from Beachy to the Isle of Wight.

1 of 20 to Cruise the out-side of the Wight.

1 of 15 to Cruise the inside the Isle of Wight.

1 of 20 from the West-End of the Isle of Wight to Portland.

1 of 20 from Portland to Bury-head.

1 of 15 from Bury-head to Ram-head.

1 of 20 from Ram-head to the Lizard.

1 of 15 from the Lizard to Cape Cornwell.

1 of 15 from Cape Cornwell to Hart Point.

1 of 15 from St. David's Head to Worms-Head.

The Northern Station from the Thames.

1 of 15 from the Isle of Shippy to Harwich.

1 of 15 from Harwich to Yarmouth.

1 of 15 from Yarmouth to Lyn.

1 of 20 from Lyn to Scarborough.

1 of 25 from Scarborough to Tinnmouth-Bar.

1 of 15 from Tinnmouth-Bar to the Frith of Edinburgh.

1 of 25 from the Frith of Edinburgh to the Frith of Murrrough.

1 of 15 from the Frith of Murrrough about the Isle of Orknies.

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The next Thing to be consider'd, is the Charge that may attend the Guarding of the Coast by Land, an Account of which take as follows:

A LIST of the Officers needful to be employed in preventing the Exportation of Wooll in the several Maritime Counties in England; with their Yearly Salaries.

Counties Names.	Supervisors	Salaries per Annum	Riding Officers	Salaries per Annum	The Annual Charge of the Whole
Northumberland and Durham	1	200	14	60	1040
Cumberland	1	100	5	60	400
Yorkshire	1	150	12	60	870
Lancashire	1	100	10	60	700
Cheshire					
Lincolnshire	1	150	12	60	870
Norfolk	1	100	6	60	460
					Suffolk

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Suffolk	I	100	8 60	580
Essex	I	100	6 60	460
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	I	150	9 60	690
Dorsetshire	I	100	6 60	460
Devonshire	I	150	10 60	750
Cornwall	I	150	12 60	870
Somersetshire and Gloucester	I	120	6 60	480
Kent	I	150	25 60	1650
Suffex	I	100	6 60	480
Middlesex and Surrey	I	100	6 60	460

Sum Total l. 11200

The Annual Charge of Guarding the Coast of Wales by Land.

Monmouthshire	I	100	5 60	400
Glamorganhire	I	100	5 60	400
Cardiganshire	I	100	7 60	520
Pembrookshire	I	100	5 60	400
Marionethshire	I	100	8 60	580
Carnavanshire	I	100	5 60	400
Isle of Anglesey	I	100	5 60	400
Denbyshire	I	100	5 60	400
Flintshire	I	100	5 60	400

Sum Total l. 2700

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The Annual Charge of preventing the Exportation of Wooll from North-Brittain, commonly call'd SCOTLAND.

The total Annual Charge	Salaries per An.	Riding Officers	Salary	Supervisor
730	60	10	130	1
870	60	12	150	1

Total l. 1600

Note, The Office of every Supervisor is to direct and appoint the Post of the Riding Officers; inspect their Behaviour, and Register their Proceedings.

That each Riding Officer, in the Night Season, take another with him for his Assistance, and more, if need, upon Information given of Frauds intended, &c.

My Reason for making no Distinction in England of the Officers Salaries, (although some Counties are cheaper for living than others) is, that the Commissioners of Wooll or Supervisor may sometimes see Cause to exchange them from one County to another.

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And here it may not be improper to take a Survey of the Annual Charge of the Land and Sea Service for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, Yarn made of Wooll, Fullers Earth, Scouring Clay, &c. out of Great Britain.

The Sloops proposed for	1.	s.	d.
the Sea Service, amounts	14049	14	11
to			
The Officers in the Land			
Service for England	11200		
For Wales	2700		
For North-Brittain	1600		
Sum Total	29549	14	11

Five Commissioners each at	
300 l. per Ann.	1500
1 Secretary at	100
2 Clerks 50 l. each	100
2 Messengers at 30 l. each	60
2 Door-keepers	40
House Rent & House-keeping	200
Postage of Letters	40

The whole Annual Charge by Sea and Land amounts to 31589 14 11

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PROPOSAL VI. That the Clause in an Act of Parliament made in the First Year of King William and Queen Mary, for Exporting Wooll, to the Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark, be repealed, and no more permitted to go thither than was allow'd by the Act made in the 14th of King Charles the Second.

OBJECTION.

That the Quantities allowed by that first Act is not sufficient to supply the Poor in their Manufactures of Knit Ware.

ANSWER.

In Answer to this, I have had very credible Information from some of the Fair Traders in those Islands concerning the Consumption of their Wooll, That there hath been no less than half the Quantity (if not more) of the Wooll Exported from England to those Islands, transported to France, by which Friendly Correspondence, some of the Inhabitants of those Islands were enriched during the late War by the Brandies, Wines, and Silk brought in Return for their Wooll. (And further, since the Peace, that the Conveyance of Wooll by Water-Carriage hath been encouraged, great Quantities have been convey'd from London to Southampton, under Pretence of being intended for the Islands,

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Islands of *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, allowed by Act of Parliament.) And likewise many Frauds are committed in Shipping it from *Southampton* to the said Islands by trading Vessels; it is therefore proposed that all Wooll be convey'd in Ships appointed by the Government, or Orders given to the Sloops Cruising on that Coast to see the Wooll delivered in those Islands which is thither consign'd, or give Notice to the Surveyor of Wooll to see the same entred.

PROPOSAL VII.

Whereas the Laws already made have not had the desired Effect, it is humbly offer'd to Consideration, whether some Corporal Punishment added to the Fine and Imprisonment already inflicted by Law, would not much more deter those Smuglers from their vile Practices; or if it should be thought more effectual, Transportation for Life; and that all Aiders and Abettors in exporting Wooll, that are Men of Estates, do, for the first Offence, forfeit one Years Income of the Rents and Profits of their Estates, over and above the Fines and Forfeitures already by Law charg'd upon them; and all such as may think this a harsh, and too severe Proceeding, I would desire to consider how much worse these Miscreants are, than the vilest Highway Men, who only rob a Man

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Man of what he has about him; when this will unavoidably be the Ruin of many Families, who must become a burdensome Charge to the Nation, and at length, it may justly be fear'd, the Ruin of the whole.

What is farther most material to be consider'd is, a Fund sufficient to Defray the Charges of Commissioners attending this Affair, and the Officers deputed under them for Land and Sea Service; for Intelligence, and Carrying on Prosecutions against Offenders.

1. Whereas the Frigates and Sloops already establish'd by Acts of Parliament (as appears by Account given in by the Commissioners of the Customs, pursuant to an Order of this present House of Commons, of the annual Charge thereof) have cost the Nation 55000 *l.* and upward annually, and to very little purpose; it is presum'd, that if his Majesty would be pleas'd to recall such Frigates and Sloops, and enable the Commissioners authorized by Parliament for preventing the Exportation of Wooll to fit out the Sloops, and appoint the Land Officers, mentioned in the foregoing Schemes; it is not to be doubted but our Woolls Exportation would be effectually prevented, to the great Increase of his Majesty's Revenue, the Relief of our Poor, the Advancement of Navigation.

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vigation, and the Advantage of all Trades depending thereon.

N. B. I am so far from desiring to be chargable to the Crown in this Matter, that I doubt not but the Charges attending this Affair, will be soon return'd into his Majesty's Coffers with Improvement, by the following Method of raising Money, viz.

PROPOSAL VIII.

For Raising a Fund.

That all Cloth, and other Woollen Manufacture, shipp'd off White, may pay 3 *d.* for every Pound Weight of Dressed Cloths, and 4 *d.* for all Cloths, &c. undressed.

Tho' this Proposal does not immediately relate to the Exportation of Wooll, yet it tends to redress the Grievances of our Woollen Manufacturers; for our Wooll is not fully manufactur'd, till the Cloth or Stuff made thereof is dress'd and dy'd. For by every Cloth that goes out of the Nation undress'd and undy'd, there is above 3 *l.* lost to the several Artificers employ'd therein. For what I have further to say on this Head, I refer the Reader to a Letter of Sir *Walter Raleigh* to King *James I.* inserted Fol. 20, and leave him to judge whether a Duty or a to-

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tal Prohibition be most for the Interest of *England*.

2. That all Merchants Denizens pay a Duty of 1 *s.* for every Long Cloth dress'd and dy'd exported, and proportionably for all other Woollens fully manufactur'd as before.

3. That all alien Strangers pay double the said Duty.

OBJECTION.

It may be objected by some, that this will be such a Clog to those Commodities, that it will discourage our Merchants from Transporting them.

ANSWER.

That in the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, our *English* Merchants paid 3 *s.* 4 *d.* per Cloth, which is more then treble the Duty now propos'd, and Foreigners double; so that no Man concern'd in any Branch of the Woollen Manufacture can reasonably think this a Burthen now; but (if a thinking Man, and just Trader) must know, and own it will necessarily conduce to his own personal and Families Wellfare, as well as that of the Publick, in regaining our Foreign Trade, whereby the Merchants were enrich'd in the Return of Foreign Commodities, with many of which we employ'd our Poor at home, and furnish'd our Neighbours abroad, for other Conveniences. But if it should be found to be any Grievance, it

may

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may be enacted for no longer time than the Duty of Alnage, or sealing of Cloth remains, which is about 8 or 9 Years: And that at the Expiration thereof, that Duty of Alnage may be made perpetual, and appropriated to this Use, and Collected by Officers appointed by Commissioners for preventing the Exportation of Wooll.

PROPOSAL IX.

That 5 s. per Pack, or one Farthing a Pound be laid on all Fleece Wooll, and half that Duty on all Wooll taken from Sheeps, Skin, or Lambs Skin, commonly call'd Fell Wooll.

OBJECTION.

The Grower may perhaps think it a Hardship on him, but I shall hereafter make it appear, that it will be for his Advantage.

ANSWER.

Let's form an Estimate of the Loss falling on the Grower of Wooll by such a Tax.

Suppose a Farmer to Rent 200 l. per Ann. upon which Estate he keeps 400 Sheep, 18 Fleeces of which may produce a Tod or 28 Pound of Wooll; which is a Medium; for it is well known some Sheep that produce the

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the finest Wooll; as for Instance, the *Herefordshire* and Welch Sheep, 12 or 14 Fleeces will not produce a Todd; when in some other Countries 9 or 10 may weigh a Todd. And the largest Wooll growing in the Counties of *Northampton*, *Lincoln*, *Leicester* and *Kent*, usually Todd from 4 to 6 or 7 Fleeces: Now if we Compute the Charge that will fall upon the Farmer by this Tax of 1 Farthing per pound, it will appear to be no more than 7 d. per Todd, which is 1 l. 9 s. 2 d. for the Wooll of his 400 Sheep.

This, we may have great Reason to believe, will be very inconsiderable to what he may get by the Advance Price of Wooll, and the greater Consumption of Corn, Cheese, and Cattle; For it's rational to suppose, That many Thousands of poor People, that now live on Parish Rates, drink Water, and eat little more than Bread, (and well if they can get that) if constantly Employ'd, and paid for their Labour, might drink strong Drink, eat Meat and other good Provisions, which now they are rendred unable to do. And this would redound to the Farmer's Advantage Threefold more than the Tax he pays for his Wooll: And what is more, the Gentlemen and Landed Interest would reap an Advantage in the Sale of their Wooll at

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a better Price 2 s. a Todd at least ; For the greater Demand for, and Consumption of our Manufactures Abroad ; The greater demand would be for Wooll at Home, and Consequently Advance the Price of it to the Benefit of the Landed Interest, &c.

P R O P O S A L X.

That a Restraint be laid on the Printing and Wearing of Calicoes in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.

R E A S O N.

The Reason of this Proposal is manifest, in that hereby the Consumption of our fine Stuffs and Silks is much lessened, not only in wearing them at Home, but Exporting them into Foreign Parts. The French King by a Decree of his Council of State in *October*, 1686. forbid the Printing and Wearing them in Garments and Furniture, and that all such as should be found in Shops, Warehouses, &c. after *December*, 1687. should be burnt, and the Proprietors fined 3000 Livres ; His Reason was, That such Goods stood in Direct Opposition to his and his Subjects Interests, in lessening the Consumption and Export of his Woollen Manufactures at Home and Abroad, and thereby depriving the Poor of

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of their Labour. Surely it does as much Concern us, as the French King, to preserve and encourage the Increase, and Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures.

The French King hath also forbid all Wrought Silks being brought into his Dominions, for the Encouragement and Benefit of his Subjects in Manufacturing the Raw Silk imported from *Turky*, *Italy*, &c. in return for his Woollen Manufactures.

O B J E C T I O N.

It may by some be Objected, That the restraining the Printing, and Wearing of Calicoes would deprive many Poor of their Labour, and subsistence, that are Employ'd in Printing them.

A N S W E R.

In answer to which, it is very well known that Manufacturing our Wooll into fine Stuffs, and also our Raw Silk will employ Ten times as many Poor as the Callicoe Printing would : If I had said twenty times, I had been within the Bounds of Verity.

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O B J E C T I O N.

Another Objection may arise, and that more plausible than the former, That the Duty lately laid on Printed Callicoes, brings many Thousands of Pounds *per Ann.* to the Crown, which would sink the Kings Revenue, if Printing and Wearing of Callicoes were prohibited.

A N S W E R.

I must confess this Objection bears weight so far with me, that I would much more readily offer what might Conduce to the Enlarging the Revenues of the Crown, than diminish it, and shall therefore in Answer hereunto, offer a Method of raising an Equivalent, *Viz.*

That every broad Weaver in Silk, and Stuff Weaving, should pay 6 d. *per Month* for each Loom. This, it's presumed, would raise more Money to the Crown, than is now receiv'd by the Duty on Callicoes Printed; and here ariseth another Objection, *Viz.*

O B J E C T I O N.

That such a Tax being laid on Looms, and Labouring People, may seem harsh, and oppressive.

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A N S W E R.

In answer to which, The Advantage that would accrue to the Weaver by increase of Trade, and constant Employment hereby, would more than Countervail such a Tax, so That Objection is groundless. And what's more, I dare affirm, That, were they left to their Liberty to be Tax'd on that Score (I mean upon a Total Prohibition of the Printing and Wearing of Callicoes within his Majesties Dominions) they would readily and chearfully pay a greater Duty than is propos'd.

And here I cannot omit mentioning the Wrought Silks imported from *India*, &c. which, tho' forbid to be exposed to Sale here, are bought up by Foreigners, and others (considerably cheaper than our Weavers can make here) and sent to *Ireland*, our Plantations and other Parts; which deprives Thousands of poor Weavers, and others, of their Labour, by lessening the Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures Abroad: And what is worse (if I am rightly inform'd these Silks are shipped of to our Plantations Custom-free; and not only so, but a Drawback of 30 *per Cent.* or more, is allowed; insomuch that they are prejudicial to the Poor in their Labour,

Labour, besides the loss to the Crown by the Drawback.

It is therefore humbly hoped, That our Legislators will take this Matter into their mature Consideration, and make such Laws, as may Encourage our Manufactures; by taking off such Drawback, or in Prohibiting the Importation of Wrought Silks; And also, the Drawbacks allow'd on the Exportation of our Dying Wares; That Forreigners may not have the Advantage of Dying cheaper with our Indico, Logwood, &c. than we can our selves.

Notwithstanding what has been already propos'd, it is impossible to secure the desir'd Effects, if we shut not the Irish Backdoor; I shall therefore endeavour, according to my Capacity, to lay down a Method for the Prevention of that Evil also.

But before I come directly to it, I will give you a Transcript of what I receiv'd from an Ingenious, Well-wishing Gentleman to his Country's Prosperity, that was for several years a Surveyor in the Southern Parts of that Kingdom; and had thereby an Opportunity of making Observations, and discovering the Projects, and Methods us'd in this destructive Trade, in and since the year 1701, upon our breaking with Spain, &c.

The

The French then thought it their proper time to Engross the Spanish Trade into their own Hands, and supply them with Woollens, which before they had from *England*.

This Stratagem (says he) took Effect, by their settling a Correspondence in *Ireland* with such who were Favourers of *K. James 2.* some of which settled in *France*, and had a Mutual Correspondence with those in *Ireland*; by whom they were supply'd with Wooll from the South Coast of that Kingdom.

The French finding the Sweetness of the Woollen Trade, have left no thinking Man to wonder at their Assiduity in promoting it; especially to the *Spanish West-Indies*; And that crafty Monarch thought it so great Advantage, that he advanced two Millions of Livres, and the King of *Spain* one Million, in their Joynt-Stock of Six Millions; the other three Millions by the Subjects of those two Crowns, for the carrying on that profitable Commerce, forbidding, under severe Penalties, the sending any Effects by the Gallies thither, but what were the Produce of those two Countries; not doubting thereby to secure to themselves all the Treasure of *America*. The French having then 30 Sail of Ships Trading in the *South Seas*, for bringing of Bullion to *France*. Then it was that they endeavoured to Engross the Spanish Wooll by a Stock of 40 Millions of Livres advanced by

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by the French King, and the Subjects of several Provinces ; That of *Languedock* alone furnished five Millions ; whereupon Manufacturies were set up at *St. Maloes, Rochell, Nantz, Bourdeaux, &c.*

These Things duly weighed, cannot but affect the Mind of every good and true Englishman ; and inspire all, in whose Power it lies to redress it, with a true and fervent Zeal.

And now, having (as before in *Great Britain*) shewn the Managements of those in *Ireland*, in carrying on the same pernicious Traffick, I shall proceed to Proposals for preventing its being exported from thence to *France, &c.*

First, By Sea-Service : And here I'll give a Scheme, which I submit to judicious Consideration, whether not likely to be (if not fully preventive, yet) a Mean of going a great Way in effecting this good work.

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A SCHEME of the Cost of *Manning and Victualling 10 Sloops, for guarding the Coasts of Ireland, to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and Smuggling Foreign Goods imported.*

The Total Charge Annually	Victualling, Fire and Candle, &c.	Their whole Pay per Annum	Each Man's Yearly Pay	Numb. of able Seamen	Carpenter	Boatswain and Gunner	Mate's Pay	Captain's Pay	Number of Men	Number of Sloops
789 03 00	304 03 04	315	21 15	21	20	20	30	100	25	1
653 06 00	243 06 04	240	16 15	16	20	20	30	100	20	1
517 10 00	182 10 00	165	11 15	11	20	20	30	100	15	1

4 Sloops of 25 Men each, is per Ann.	3156 12 00
3 Sloops of 20 Men each, ditto	1959 18 00
3 Sloops of 15 Men each, ditto	1552 10 00
10 Sloops. Total Annual Charge	6669 00 00

N. B. *Their*

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Their Stations for Cruising.

- 2 Sloops of 25 Men, from the *Salthouses* to *Cape Clear*.
- 2 of 25 from *Cape Clear* to the *Shanon*.
- 2 of 20 from the *Shanon* to the Isle of *Aron*.
- 2 From the Isle of *Aron* to *Groome* Island, viz. One of 20 Men, and One of Fifteen.
- 2 of 15 from *Groome* Island to the *Salthouses*.

These Sloops being so Station'd, may have Communication with each other, to Consult proper Measures for discovering Frauds, and in few hours joyn themselves upon any Information from the Commander, who shall first be acquainted with a Design of Running any Goods.

And it is to be hop'd, with Just and Careful Management, these Sloop may be reduc'd to half the Number in very few Years, and save the Government half that Charge.

'Twould be very unreasonable to think, That any Nation will not take all proper Methods for the Encrease of their Trade and enriching themselves; 'Tis the very Design of this Treatise to shew *Great Brittain* the Way so to do; I would therefore have it Consider'd, That 'tis unreasonable we should deny our Fellow Subjects in *Ireland* the same Priviledge: And 'twill more abundantly appear so, if we have a Retrospect to the Cause of their so abounding in Wooll. It

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It is well known to be a very fruitful Country, and their Chief Breed and Feed was formerly Black Cattle; But (whether for our own Advantage, in King *Charles* 2d's. Reign, an Act was made to prohibit the Importation of *Irish* Cattle) they were forc'd, for Consumption of their Pasturage, and a Livelyhood, to Breed Sheep; which has occasion'd a great Quantity of Wooll in that Kingdom, and *England* having laid a severe Duty on their Wooll and Yarn, can it be suppos'd they will not find other Vent for it, and who can blame them?

I now proceed to my Proposals for Redress.

P R O P O S A L I.

That the Act before-mention'd for prohibiting the Importation of Black Cattle, be repeal'd, and the Breed of their Sheep confin'd to such a Number as may be thought sufficient fully to supply the Occasions of that Kingdom.

O B J E C T I O N.

But some may say, 'Twill be disadvantageous to the Breeders of Black-Cattle here.

A N S W E R.

In answer to which, it may be alledged, That when the *Irish* Cattle were brought into *England*, Beef was one Fifth part cheaper than

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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 Cattle, was laid out in Commodities which they carried home with them, viz. Woollen Cloth, Stuffs, Silks, Gold and Silver Lace, and many other Wares. 'Tis true, the greater quantity of Wooll comes from *Ireland*, the cheaper is Wooll in Price, for it sinks the Price of our *English* Wooll, 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 Wooll in *England*, do contrive to send it into Foreign Parts, as I have beforementioned, 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 Revenue of the Crown, and in short, the weakening our whole Constitution, and Strengthening our Enemies. And as to our going with

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with cheap Cloth to Forreign Markets; we cannot be undersold by any, for that the Wooll both of *France*, *Holland*, and almost all other Countries, except *Spain*, will not make Cloath either for ornament or service, without ours to mix with it, so that, as I have before told you, Foreigners will be constrained to give us our Price.

I cannot but remember what a quick vent we had for our Cloth, &c. about 30 Years since, when Wooll was near double the price it is 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.

PROPOSAL II.

That if the Wisdom of the Nation shall not think fit to repeal that Act, It is submitted, whether it would not be Expedient to permit and encourage the Importation of *Irish* Wooll and Yarn into *England*, by taking off the Duty, which I am very fond of thinking will appear proper to be done, if any Gentleman will give himself leave, with an unbyas'd mind, to peruse the foregoing Sheets.

O B

OBJECTION.

But it may be Objected, 'Twill lower the Price of Wooll in *England*, to the Loss of our Breeders.

ANSWER.

This answers it self, for the Tax that may be laid for the support of the Sloops and Land-service, &c. will set them upon a Level with us; and should our Growers complain of the lowering their Price here, I am much mistaken, if (the whole consider'd) it will not prove it's Advance; for if there is not such Care taken of our Woollen Manufacture, as before Specified; it must encrease the Consumption, consequently the Demand, and so the Price will not be diminish'd to the Grower, but he will find it abundantly his Advantage.

PROPOSAL III.

That a Duty of one Half-penny *per* Pound, be laid on all Wooll, to be paid by the Proprietor at the time of Sheering, which will amount to 10 s. a Pack of 240 *lb*. Now we may suppose, upon a modest Calculation, that the Wooll of the Growth of that Kingdom, cannot be less than Sixty thousand Packs, which will amount to Thirty thousand Pounds *per Ann.* which we may rationally

nally conclude, will defray the Charges of Sea and Land Service.

PROPOSAL IV.

That, considering the Impossibility of the Commissioners in *England* to Inspect the Affairs of that Kingdom to good Effect, It is humbly propos'd, That 3 Commissioners may be appointed there; and they oblig'd every Three Months to transmit Duplicates of their Transactions to the Commissioners in *England*; And that the said Commissioners, direct the Establish'd Sloops on that Coast, to Convey all Ships freighted with Wooll to their respective Ports in *England*, whither they are bound, and carry back a Certificate from the Chief Officer of that Port, of the number of Packs Enter'd and Landed there, and to whom Consign'd.

If these Proposals should not be thought Effectual to rescue our Trade out of the Hand of Forreigners, and secure to our Nation its native Treasure, I have the Peace and Satisfaction of Mind, that I have flung in my Mite towards it; and I hope, at least, it may prove a Prompter to others of more Leasure and Ability, to give a finishing Stroke to my well design'd Beginning.

F I N I S.

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