An Act to restrain Drunkeness and promote Industry

Whereas Drunkeness and Debauchery in every Community tend very much to inervate the Constitutions of such unhappy Persons as are addicted to those Vices, and when added to the extremities of heat and Cold peculiar to this Climate destroy many Subjects that would otherwise be usefull to the Society in general and their own Family's in particular And whereas the promoting Industry and good order among Tradesmen and Labourers ought to be one of the first Institutions in an Infant Colony

I Be it therefore Enacted By the Governor Council and Assembly of his Majestys Province of West Florida And it is Enacted by the Authority of the same That from and after the first day of January which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty Seven no person or persons hired to work by the day in this Province shall be Intitled to receive

Tradesmen or Labourers forfeit their Wages every day they are deemed Drunk

Wages for the day or days on which He She or they shall be Deemed Drunk.

II That from and after the said first day of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven every Tradesman or Labourer within this Province who shall be hired by the day shall work faithfully Nine hours in each day between the hours of four in the Morning and Eight at Night in the Summer, and between the hours of six in the morning and Seven at Night in the Winter, and for every hour out of the said Nine which such Tradesman or Labourer shall be absent there shall be deducted out of His or their Wages one Shilling Sterling

Tradesmen and Labourers forfeit one Shilling Sterling for every hour they are absent from their Work

III That no Tradesman or Labourer within this Province shall quit any piece of Work such Tradesman or Labourer shall be engaged for to go to Work for any other Person or Persons until such Tradesman or Labourer shall have com=pleated the Work he or they shall have engaged for which engagement shall be by a Memorandom (sic) in Writing under the hands of the Parties under penalty

Tradesmen or Labourers not to leave the Work they are engaged for

of five pounds Sterling to be applied as is hereafter provided for in this Act and also two Dollars per day for every day any Tradesman shall so absent himself from the work he shall be employed in and one Dollar for each day any Labourer shall so absent himself to be paid to the Person who shall have so employed such Tradesman or Labourer

IV And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that every Trades-man or Labourer within this Province shall be paid his Wages according to such agreement as shall appear to have been made between the parties under the penalty of five pounds Sterling to be paid by the employer over and above the Wages so agreed for

Tradesmen and Labourers to be paid their Wages According to agreement

V And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that upon Proof being made as required by this Act before any Justice of the Peace such Magistrate may and is hereby required to Issue his Warrant to any Constable or other Peace Officer to Levy by Distress and sale of Goods for the Penalties incurred or to be in-

(2d page)

Penalties and forfeitures how to be recovered

-curred by this Act

VI And be it Enacted that all Penalties or forfeitures incurred or to be incurred by this Act and not provided for shall be applied to the use of the Poor of the District where such penalty shall be recovered Which Penalty or Penalties so recovered shall be paid by the respective Magistrates who shall have Levied the same into the first Quarter Sessions of the Peace which shall be in the Districts after such Penalties shall have been recovered Respectively And such Quarter Sessions is hereby impowered to apply all such Penaltys as shall be recovered by this Act for the use of the Poor of the Districts or in such manner as they in their discretion shall think fit.

Application of forfeitures

VII And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That the Proofs required by this Act shall be by the Oaths of two Witnesses taken before a Magistrate

Proof required

Passed the House of Assembly
this 15th day of December 1766
Franc. Poussett
Speaker

Council Chamber
Pensacola the 26th
day of December 1766
By Appointment
Jas Bruce
Senior Council

I Consent
Geo. Johnstone

West Florida.

An Act to restrain Drunkenness (sic)
and promote Industry

Read in Council 3d January 1764

Robert Collins D. Clerk of Council

Exd.

No. 4.