

the Weavers, and others, have been much oppressed by the Clothiers not paying their Wages in Money, but by forcing them to take Goods in lieu thereof: And praying, That Leave be given to bring in a Bill for explaining the said Acts, and encouraging the Petitioners Trades.

Ordered, That the said Petition do lie upon the Table.

Orwell
Navigation.

A Petition of the chief Inhabitants of the Town of *Stowmarket*, in the County of *Suffolk*, and of several of the Justices of the Peace, Gentlemen, Tradesmen, and Freeholders, of the said County, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, That the River *Orwell*, which runneth from the said Town of *Stowmarket*, to the Town and Port of *Ipswich*, in the said County of *Suffolk*, being about Sixteen Miles by Water, which, although anciently a navigable River, yet hath been so far neglected for many Years last past, that the same is now become wholly unnavigable; insomuch that the Inhabitants are now obliged to have their Corn, Coals, Timber, and all other Goods and Merchandizes, carried by Land; which is very chargeable to the Country thereabouts: That the said Town of *Stowmarket* is an ancient Market Town, situate in the Centre of the said County; and, by reason of the Decay of Trade, and the Neglect of the said River, the Charge of the Poor is, of late Years greatly increased, being Six Shillings in the Pound, and upwards; whereas, if the said River were made navigable, the Trade of the said Town would flourish; Timber for his Majesty's Navy, and other Merchandizes, would be carried at much easier Rates; and a Communication would be opened with several Places, to the great Benefit and Advantage of the Country thereabouts: And praying, That Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for making the said River navigable.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee: And that they do examine the Matter thereof; and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House:

And it is referred to Sir *Thomas Hammer*, Mr. *North*, Sir *Robert Davers*, Mr. *Carterett*, Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. *Onslow*, Sir *Justinian Isham*, Mr. *Reynell*, Mr. *Heysham*, Mr. *Lade*, Mr. *Plumptre*, Sir *Tho. Crosse*, Mr. *Butler*, Mr. *Bacon*, Sir *John Hobart*, Mr. *Morice*, Sir *John Cope*, Mr. *Colmore*, Mr. *Conyers*, Mr. *England*, Mr. *Bertie*, Sir *John Jennings*, Mr. *Herne*, Colonel *Negus*, Sir *John Pakington*, Sir *Jonathan Cope*, Mr. *Butler*, Sir *Edward Ernley*, Mr. *London*, Sir *Tho. Scawen*; and all the Members that serve for the Counties of *Suffolk*, *Norfolk*, and *Essex*: And they are to meet this Afternoon, at Five a Clock, in the Speaker's Chamber: And have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Wearing
printed Cal-
licoos, &c.

A Petition of the Headmen, Wardens, and Assistants, of the incorporated Company of Worsted Weavers, in the City of *Norwich*, and County of *Norfolk*, on behalf of themselves, and Thousands depending upon them, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, That, for many Years past, the greatest Part of the Trade of this City and County consisted in a great Variety of Woollen, and Silk and Woollen, Stuffs; great Quantities of which were not only consumed at home, but also exported to, and consumed in, our Plantations; not only to the Advantage of these Places in particular, by employing and maintaining many Thousands of poor Families; but also to the Benefit of the Nation in general, by the working up the Wool of our own Growth: That, when this Trade was very much obstructed by the frequent wearing and using *East India* wrought Silks, and Callicoos printed, painted, and dyed, there, an Act was obtained, in the Year 1700, which prohibited the wearing and using them: That, in a few Years, the good Intent of that Act was eluded by the prevailing use of Callicoos and Linens; whereby our Home Consumption of Woollen Manufactures is greatly hindered in their Exportation to our Plantations: That, unless this languishing Manufactory be revived, it will be impossible to provide the Poor sufficient Employment; many of our Manu-

facturers having been forced to leave Trading; and others have run away, and left their Families chargeable to the Parish; and scarce any will put their Children Apprentice thereto: And praying Relief.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Petition of the Weavers, Walkers, and others, Freemen, and belonging to the incorporate Company of Clothiers in the City of *Worcester*, in behalf of themselves, and many Thousands of Poor employed in the several Branches of the said Trade; and also in the behalf of many Hundred thousands of poor distressed Families belonging to the Woollen Manufactures of *Great Britain*; is referred.

A Petition of the Manufacturers of Woollen Goods in and about the Town of *Kettering*, in the County of *Northampton*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, That the Woollen Manufacture, in which the Petitioners employ many Hundreds of Poor, lies under such Discouragements by the universal Wear of *East India* Goods, Callicoos, and printed Linens, as must necessarily sink and ruin it, together with many Families now subsisted by it, unless some effectual Remedy be speedily applied to this growing Evil: And praying Relief.

Wearing
printed Cal-
licoos, &c.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Petition of the Weavers, Walkers, and others, Freemen, and belonging to the incorporate Company of Clothiers in the City of *Worcester*, in behalf of themselves, and many Thousands of Poor employed in the several Branches of the said Trade; and also in the behalf of many Hundred thousands of poor distressed Families belonging to the Woollen Manufactures of *Great Britain*; is referred.

A Petition of the Clothiers, and Woollen Manufacturers, of, and belonging unto, the City of *New Sarum*, in the County of *Wiltshire*, was presented to the House, and read; setting forth, That the Petitioners are considerable Dealers in the Woollen Manufacture, and chiefly in the Clothing Trade; whereby they employed great Numbers of poor Families in and near the said City; which, otherwise, must have been chargeable to their respective Parishes: That the Cloth, and other Manufactures, were generally sold unto the *Turkey* and *Italian* Merchants, who export them, and return great Quantities of raw Silk, which is again manufactured in other Parts of *England*, and thereby employ great Numbers of poor People; but, by the great Encouragement given unto the printed and painted Callicoos and Linens, as also unto the *East India* prohibited Goods, the Consumption of raw Silks is much lessened; and the Exportation of the Woollen Cloth, and other Manufactures, greatly interrupted: That the Petitioners are no longer able to carry on their Trades; and the said Manufacture in danger of being lost: And praying to be relieved.

Ditto.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Petition of the Weavers, Walkers, and others, Freemen, and belonging to the incorporate Company of Clothiers in the City of *Worcester*, in behalf of themselves, and many Thousands of Poor employed in the several Branches of the said Trade; and also in the behalf of many Hundred thousands of poor distressed Families belonging to the Woollen Manufactures of *Great Britain*; is referred.

Ordered, That the Commissioners of Excise do lay before this House, an Account of the yearly Duties paid for printed Linens, from the 24th *June* 1712 to the 24th of *June* 1719; distinguishing each Year, and the different Duties.

Printed
Linens and
Callicoos.

Ordered, That the Commissioners of Excise do lay before this House an Account of the printed Linens exported yearly, from the 24th of *June* 1712 to the 24th of

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