

CLOTH TRADE REGULATIONS

Beverly (Yorkshire), 1561

In the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred three score and one, at the humble aught and request of Christopher Thornaby, then being Alderman of the Drapers, and the whole brotherhood of the same, made unto Richard Wilson, William Fletcher, Robert Sparrow, Thomas Hardy, William Farley, Alexander Gye, Richard Bullock, Robert Brown, John Webster, and Henry Hodgenesse, the Governors and Keepers of this town and commonalty of Beverley, that certain abuses might be suppressed which were daily used against their trade of occupying, contrary to good order of this town.

Whereupon it is ordained and agreed by the said Richard Wilson, William Fletcher, and others, their fellows and brethren before-named, together with the assent and consent of the 24 assistants and counselors of the same, that these ordinances following shall be established and annexed unto the said Brotherhood of Drapers forever hereafter to be duly kept and observed.

First, it is ordained, concluded, and agreed, the day and year above-said, that the said Drapers, nor any of them, shall from the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God in the year of our Lord 1561 and in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, make, shape, cut, or sew, in their own shop, house, or houses, any kind of new cloth to be made in garment or garments, or any kind of apparel for any manner of person or persons (their own apparel and their family's only excepted), under pain of forfeiting for every kind of garment or apparel so taken or being evidently proved before the 12 Governors to be made, shaped, cut, or sewed, 20s, the one-half thereof to be paid in the guild hall to those of the Commonalty, and the other half to be given to the said Tailors and their brethren.

Item, it is ordained that no tailor, walker, or dyer, nor any of them, being, remaining, dwelling, or inhabiting within this town of Beverley and trading, using, or occupying his or their own science, or any of the said three occupations, shall from the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God in the year above written buy no manner of woollen cloth or cloths to the intent to sell the same again, by wholesale or retail, by yard or otherwise, under pain, for every piece what kind of woollen cloth soever it be, so bought and sold by wholesale or retail, and evidently proved before the 12 Governors, to forfeit 20s, the one-half thereof to the Commonalty and the other half to the expences of the said occupation of Drapers.

Item, it is ordained that no foreigner dwelling forth of this town of Beverley bring any kind of cloth, in pack or packs or otherwise, to the said town to the intent to sell the same or any part thereof, shall not open or show the same pack or packs of cloth or cloths in any private house or place within the same town, but only in the marketplace of the same town, upon the market day only. And in the weekday to repair to the common hall, or place there appointed for the same, to show their said cloths, and to take their most gain by wholesale only, and not to cut by yard but only upon the market day in open fair or market, upon pain for every pack or piece so shown or sold to the intent as is aforesaid, and it being evidently proved before the 12 Governors, to forfeit 20s, the one-half to those of the Commonalty and the other to the brethren of the Drapers of the same town.