

We did not look upon the Services required of the Agent by the Bill, to be so considerable, as that he would ask a Reward for them; however as they may possibly be attended with more Difficulty than we imagined, we are not against inserting in the Bill such a Sum as may be thought a reasonable Reward for his Labour. The Service required from the Receiver of the Quit-Rents is only to make out, and deliver to the Commissioners, fair Accounts from his Debt Book, of the Names and Quantities of Acres of every Tract or Parcel of Land within their Counties, and to whom the same belongs or ought to be charged, making a separate Account for each Hundred, as nearly as he can judge; for this the Reward of Forty Shillings, we think (tho' it may not be exactly equal) upon the whole is quite sufficient, and it is scarcely worth while to particularize by the Bill, what each County Receiver shall have. The Duty of the Commissioners of the Land Tax is new, and quite independent of any other, and as the Execution of the Trust will probably, in the first Instance, be attended with some Difficulty, we are persuaded your Honours, upon this Consideration, will not think 8 s. per Day too much for their Trouble.

The Office of Sheriff (who by the Bill is appointed to be Collector) will be sufficiently Lucrative by the several Branches of Business annexed to it, and being obliged by his present Office to account with almost every Person in his County, from whom the proposed Tax is to be collected, he can certainly execute this Office with much less Trouble and Expence than any other Person: Upon this Principle, we presume, the Office of Collectors of the Quit-Rents was annexed to that of Sheriff, and the Salary lowered from Twenty to Ten per Cent. and since, for this Reason, the Proprietor has thought fit to lessen the Salary of the Collectors of the Quit-Rents, we hope it will not be objected to, if, for the same Reason, we have given, in the present Instance, a less Salary than the Sheriff usually has on his Collections: We think it reasonable in both Cases.

The giving a Power to the Commissioners of the Loan-Office to put the Collectors Bonds in Suit, immediately on Failure in Payment of the Duties, is not without Precedent; 'tis done by the 40,000 l. Act. The Backwardness of the Collectors of the Public Monies, in paying them into the Loan-Office, for many Years past, made it then necessary, and we are sorry to observe, the same Backwardness, even to this Time, makes it more so now. Public Applications to the Supreme Magistrate, for this Purpose, are attended with unavoidable Delay: The Lodging such a Power ought therefore not to be looked upon as Derogatory to his Right, but as a prudent Precaution, and necessary to compel the speedy Payment of the Public Monies into the Loan-Office, at this Time more particularly needful, as the Credit of our Paper Currency so greatly depends upon it's being speedily brought in and sunk.

When the Treasure of the People is drawn from their Pockets, to sink in those of the Collectors, it is particularly Grievous, as they must be again Taxed to make good Deficiencies in our public Funds, occasioned by the Collectors converting the public Money to their own private Use, which renders the People still less able to answer the public Demands.

We did not apprehend, that the Provision made in the Bill to discharge the Claims of such Persons as have been burthened with very considerable Expences, in providing Necessaries for his Majesty's Troops in their Winter Quarters, could have been liable to the least Objection; especially as we have been so far from assuming any new Power, that, on the contrary, we have made the constant and uninterrupted Usage of this Province, the sole Rule of our Conduct upon this Occasion: And your Honours will probably acquit us of the heavy Charge of assuming Powers unprecedented, and of endeavouring to abridge your just Rights, when you may be pleased to recollect, that Claims of every Denomination against the Public, are laid before, considered and adjusted by, the Lower House of Assembly only, and that upon their Determination such Claims are rejected, or entered upon the Journal of Accounts, which must have the Sanction and Aid of an Act of the Legislature, before the public Creditors can be paid their respective Allowances, and we conceive the Clause objected to, goes no farther, as it only applies a Sum not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred Pounds, out of the 45,000 l. granted by the Bill, to the discharging the Claims of such Persons as have been burthened with the Expence of Quartering, which shall be laid before and allowed by the Lower House of Assembly of this Province; and as no Authority is vested in any Persons to make a Distribution of the Money thus applied, the Sanction and Aid of an Act of the Legislature must likewise be had in this Instance, before the Claimants can be paid their respective Allowances. A Bill for this Purpose was always intended by us to be sent up to your Honours, as soon as the Bill for granting the Money should be passed by you.

Your Objections against the Exemption of Persons to be Assessors, because others ought to be included, we think has little Weight, as there is very little Probability of the Persons named by your Honours being appointed; however most of the Exemptions you enumerate, we shall readily agree to; tho' we cannot well understand what you mean by the Words, "and other Persons under like Circumstances."