

paid a very considerable sum, probably another £. 100,000, to the citizens of this state, for continental debts; and therefore your committee infer, that this state ought not to pay as much interest as those states which have discharged no part of the principal; by the returns for this year it appears, that there are 4,790,366 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres of land within this state, and your committee believe that the state of Virginia contains above double that quantity of patented land.

Your committee are of opinion, that the sum apportioned and required of this state by congress, as its quota of the continental expences for the army, marine, and civil list, &c. is far beyond its due proportion, being the same proportion as on the requisition for interest.

Your committee are of opinion, that the supplies for the current year can only be obtained by loans or taxes, and that the first is impracticable, from the great scarcity of specie, the high interest given by individuals, and other causes, and that this state and no other, even the most opulent, can raise the necessary expences of war and civil government by taxes alone.

Your committee are of opinion, that it would require a tax of  $\frac{33}{11}$  specie for every £. 100 property in the state (supposing it to be 12,000,000) to raise the sum of £. 203,250, and it is supposed that the whole coin in circulation in this state does not exceed £. 100,000; wherefore your committee are of opinion, that it is improper and imprudent to impose a tax in specie, with a view to raise the sums necessary for congress and this government, and that it cannot be reasonably expected that above a third, or at most half, of the circulating specie, can be collected within the year by taxes.

Your committee would observe, that they are informed and believe, that in the neighbouring states, and particularly in Virginia, that some of the best land is valued at  $\frac{7}{6}$  specie per acre, and that an estate of the real value of £. 3000 only pays 30% in the year, when in this state the best lands are estimated at £. 4 per acre, and an estate of £. 3000 in the last year paid £. 30. The consequences are obvious, that the United States are defrauded, and this state must lose its citizens.

Your committee are of opinion, that this state ought to exert itself to raise supplies as far as the abilities of the people will permit.

Your committee are of opinion, that a tax of 40% be imposed on every £. 100 of property within the state, payable in three equal payments, to wit, on the ——— day of April, August, and November, 1783, which on 12,000,000 will produce £. 240,000.

Your committee are of opinion, that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of each payment be made in coin or continental bank notes, and that the residue be discharged in coin or tobacco, pork or wheat, at the actual value of those articles in current money, and that the pork and wheat be received only at three places on the western shore and the like number on the eastern shore.

Your committee are of opinion, that bills of credit to the amount of £. 150,000 current money be emitted on landed funds, that is on bonds taken for public property sold, redeemable in six years, and that the said emission be received at par with coin in payment of that part of the tax which specifics may discharge, and also in payment for all debts due to the state; and that the said bills of credit re-issue for four years and no longer, unless paid in for the funds, in which case they shall not re-issue, but be destroyed; and the said bills may be paid to such of the state creditors as will receive them at par.

Your committee are of opinion, that all the confiscated British property pledged for the redemption of the last emission, and which remains unsold, and all property forfeited for treason, be sold on credit for four years, payable in specie or intended emission at par, and that the bonds stand as security for the redemption of the said emission.

Your committee are of opinion, that the monies arising from marriage and ordinary licences, and fines for offences and forfeited recognizances, should be appropriated by law to defray the civil list, and that the fines ought to be collected by the attorney-general and his deputies, and by them transmitted to the treasury, as heretofore directed by act of February session 1777, cap. 13.

Your committee are of opinion, that the coin as collected (or bank notes if to be procured) be remitted to the continental treasury.

Your committee are of opinion, that the deficiency of the civil list be paid out of the sales of tobacco or wheat.

Your committee are of opinion, that the collectors of the tax be appointed by the governor and council.

Your committee are of opinion, that the tax of  $\frac{7}{6}$  and  $\frac{3}{9}$  be abolished, as ample funds are provided for the sinking the emissions for which those taxes were imposed.

Your committee are of opinion, that the monies in the hands of general Smallwood, appropriated to the recruiting service, remain for that use, and to defray the expence of taking up deserters.

Your committee beg leave to report, that about 3,993,500 continental dollars were loaned to congress by the citizens of this state, and may be estimated at the value of about £. 200,000 current money.