

courts of their counties respectively, on such days as shall be by them appointed, agreeably to the directions of this act; and the said court for Baltimore-town shall sit at such convenient place therein as they shall appoint, on the days by them to be appointed as aforesaid.

“ And be it enacted, That any person may appeal from the valuation of his land, or other real property, made by the commissioners, to the said court of appeals, within twenty days after the last time appointed by the commissioners of the county for attending to shew the valuations by them made as aforesaid, and upon such appeal being made within the time aforesaid, the said court of appeals shall, within twenty days thereafter, hear and determine the same, and upon such hearing the court may confirm the valuation made by the commissioners, or may make such abatement therein as they may think just, and their determination shall be entered in a book to be kept for entering and recording their proceedings, and shall be certified by the clerk to the commissioners, who shall conform to the determination of the said court, and the party shall be so far concluded by such determination, that he shall pay the present year's assessment according to the same; but if the party appealing as aforesaid, shall apprehend himself aggrieved by the determination of the court of appeals, he may, within ten days after the same is given, appeal to the governor and the council, who are empowered to hear such appeal, and to give final judgment and determination on the same, and their judgment when given, to certify to the commissioners of the county, from which the appeal shall be made; and if the governor and council shall make any abatement from the valuation established by the court of appeals aforesaid, such abatement shall be made by the commissioners in their next year's valuation, and the land shall afterwards be rated at its value, upon such abatement being made; and the commissioners shall allow the party the sum paid in the present year's tax upon the value abated as aforesaid, in the next year's assessment, which shall be apportioned upon the other lands in the county, or property in Baltimore-town and its precincts, as the case may be; and the governor and council shall have full power and authority to summon and call before them all witnesses and persons which they may think proper, to give information upon the subject of their inquiry, and also to take all such means for their full and perfect information upon the subject, as they may think reasonable, and witnesses attending the court of appeals in the county, in consequence of summon for them, shall be allowed five shillings per day for every day's attendance; and witnesses attending the governor and council, in consequence of summon from them on request of the party appealing, shall be allowed ten shillings per day for every day's attendance, and itinerant charges; and each judge of the court of appeals shall be allowed fifteen shillings per day for every day's attendance in the execution of his trust; and the clerk of the court of appeals aforesaid shall be allowed such sum for his services, not exceeding ten pounds current money, as the said court shall determine to be just; for which allowances to the judges and clerk of the court of appeals, the commissioners shall give an order on the collector, and the same shall be by him paid out of the money levied in the county, and the party appealing, either to the court of appeals, or governor and council aforesaid, shall pay the witnesses, and also all the costs attending his appeal.

“ And be it enacted, That the commissioners of the respective counties, and of Baltimore-town and its precincts, shall on or before the first day of September next, make out a fair and correct account of the property by them respectively ascertained and valued, as by this act is directed, and the same shall sign and enclose in a cover, directed to the clerk of the house of delegates, and shall within five days thereafter, under a penalty of five pounds on each commissioner, deliver the same, endorsed on public service, to the sheriff of their county, to be by him forwarded as public letters; and also the commissioners, within the time aforesaid, under the like penalty, shall deliver a copy of such account to the clerk of his county, to be by him recorded; and the clerk of the house of delegates shall enter the said summary account in a book to be provided for that purpose, and keep the original in his office, and on the second day of the next meeting of the general assembly, he shall lay the same before the house of delegates for the inspection of the members.”

Mr. Joshua Seney, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, FEBRUARY 21, 1786.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

YOUR message of Saturday last, by Samuel Hughes, Esq; hath recalled our attention to two of the bills which you were pleased to return to us, under a confident expectation, that upon a reconsideration we would recede from our amendments proposed to one, and that the other would obtain our assent. We little expected from your honours, on a day fixed by us for rising, any thing which might delay the close of a session so uncommonly long. The arguments urged by you have not induced us, either to recede from the above amendments, or to pass the bill which respects appeals and writs of error. That part of your message, more especially, which relates to this bill, we cannot but consider as untimely, when more than five weeks have elapsed since it received our negative. The principal benefit which we apprehend can result from a regulation of the staple of tobacco, must be to prevent the exportation of that which is unmerchantable, and not sound. To this we conceive the bill will, if passed with our amendments, be fully competent. Were we to pass it without them, a regulation would be made, which, if advantageous to the purchasers of tobacco, would, in our opinion, be prejudicial to the interests of the planters, and occasion great discontents. We are also satisfied, that the execution of such