

So that in any view the government may look forward with certainty to a permanent increase of its revenue from the whole or the greater part of the installed debt, which the committee are informed is well secured.

In addition to the principal of this debt, and in addition to the arrears of interest thereon, up to the 1st November, 1795, there will be a further interest on one half of the principal due on the 1st November, 1796, amounting to £. 1,335 10 7, and payable only in specie.

Of the bonded debt heretofore mentioned, the committee believe, that under all its disadvantages, about £. 20,000 in the whole will be collected, but that some years must elapse before it comes into the treasury.

They found this belief, however, wholly on the opinions of the officers concerned in the department of finance. It is here to be observed too, that the greater part of this description of debtors have filed bills in chancery to be relieved from their contracts, on real or pretended grounds of equity; but the committee are induced to think, that although a vacation of the sales in these instances may affect the interest of the state, yet that as the property will in general be liable to a second sale, a sum may still be raised from this branch of our funds equal to, if not beyond, that which is stated above.

The £. 8,092 2 1 due from sheriffs, clerks, naval-officers, &c. may, it is supposed, be in great measure secured, but on this article the committee can only speak from the information of others, whose knowledge of the subject, they have no doubt, may be relied on.

The amount, then, which the state will probably receive in the course of a few years to come on the principal of the installed debt, on the interest on one half thereof, payable 1st November, 1796, on the bonded debt, and the debt due from clerks, sheriffs, naval-officers, &c. will be £. 73,945 5 8, and if the amount of outstanding certificates be deducted from it, there will remain to the state a capital of £. 53,945 5 8, which, converted into continental stock, at par, will produce an annual interest of £. 3,237 14 4.

To this may be added, as a new source, so much of the surplus of our revenue for the year 1796, as can be spared, which, after gratifying every object of charge, ordinary and contingent, cannot be less than fifty thousand pounds, a sum which, turned into a productive capital, will yield an annual interest of £. 3,000.

Independent of the operation of these funds, our annual income, after the year 1796, will be adequate to the common purposes of government, and will stand as follows:

Interest on our 6 per cent. stock, after allowing for the contemplated redemption of two dollars in the 100,	7,183 3 0
Interest on our 3 per cent. stock,	3,755 14 2
Produce of the land-office,	9,427 14 2
Surplus of fines, forfeitures, &c.	4,500 0 0
Product of taxes on seals, &c. in chancery and the land-office,	600 0 0
	£. 25,466 11 4

And the activity of the above-mentioned capitals, when brought into operation, (and there is no room to doubt that they will become partially beneficial in 1796, and wholly so in 1797, 1798 and 1799,) will increase this income to £. 31,704 5 8 per annum, which is at least £. 10,000 beyond the whole expences of our government, to be converted into productive stock as the surplus shall arise, and can with safety be so applied.

Besides this the deferred stock now held by the state will, after the year 1800, bring in an interest of £. 2,328 7 6, and the capital of government in the Patowmack Company, (if the navigation of that river shall be ultimately completed) will, in the opinion of the committee, be peculiarly valuable in a fiscal view.

The committee are not informed as to the probability of this state's obtaining the stock in the bank of England to which it claims a title, and it must be unnecessary to remark, that if its claim to that stock should be finally sustained, its finances would thereby be placed upon a footing of great respectability; but even if this claim should eventually be defeated, the committee are clearly of opinion, that a proper attention to existing resources within our power will, for many years, prevent the necessity of a tax upon our citizens for any probable objects of government.

The expedient that has occurred to the committee for giving permanency and activity to our revenue, and for preserving entire a competent and productive capital, is that of vesting as much of the surplus of the state's income as possible, and the whole of its surplus debts as they may come into the treasury, in six per cent. stock of the United States. The committee avoid giving any opinion on the propriety or impropriety of any further subscription to the Patowmack Company, as an operation of finance, that being a question now depending before the house, and not expressly included in the order of reference under which the committee have acted. They think it, however, within the line of their duty to observe, that the situation of the public funds will bear the proposed advance.

In conclusion, the committee recommend a revision and alteration of the laws which respect the collection of fines and forfeitures.

All which is submitted to the house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

Mr. Gale has leave of absence.

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