

me for curing the Beef and Pork they had given me orders to purchase. I could have purchased by this time the 100 blls. of beef and as many of Pork had the salt been ready, but for want thereof could not pretend to buy a single beef and most of it is now sold. There is a good deal of very fine Pork to sell which the farmers hold very high up to 45<sup>s</sup> p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> and some people I am told have offered that price Little or none has yet been sold and I apprehend it may be bought at 40/ p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup>. If you propose to limit me in price or quantity please to write me particularly by the bearer of this letter The salt ought to be here now as most people will sell their pork in the course of two weeks and when the salt arrives I shall do the best I can. The people of the neighbourhood of this Town both in this county and Queen Anns are greatly distressed for the want of Salt, the Council woud releive their distresses much if they could send some for their use at the time they send that intended for the Province use, and I woud engage to destribute the salt and remit the council the money for it.

The Roe Gally that is building at my yard is nearly ready to launch the cables and Anchors are wanting to secure her when in the water. the Guns are wanting to enable the carpenters to make the carriages and the pig Iron for ballast. The Council will please to direct me what name to call her.

M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Coursey who stands on the list of applications woud accept of the command of her. I am told he is very capable and was all last war engaged in the sea service and had the command of a privateer; or he would accept of the command of one of the Province merchant vessels. M<sup>r</sup> Coursey is well known to several Gentlemen of your Board. The Council will please excuse the liberty I have taken in mentioning M<sup>r</sup> Coursey and am with much respect,

Gent<sup>n</sup> your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Thos. Smyth.

Monday December 2. 1776.

C. S. J.

Council met. Present as on yesterday.

Ordered That the Western Shore Treasurer pay to Catherine Nixon three Pounds fifteen Shillings.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Elizabeth Maw fifteen Pounds.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to James Herrington three Pounds fifteen Shillings.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Allen Quynn Seven Shillings.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Henry Walter forty two Shillings.