

to which she had no title. They therefore proposed to offer a State bounty of \$10 cash in lieu of land.

Congress objected. They thought that new recruits would be very likely to prefer ten dollars in hand to a hundred acres in the trans-Alleghanian bush, and Maryland would therefore have an advantage over other States. They refused to rescind their resolution, but declared that it was their intention to provide the bounty-land at the expense of the United States. The Convention begged the Congress to "specify any land belonging to the United States as a common stock, available for such purpose." To this there was, naturally, no reply. It was clear that the States would have to buy it, jointly, if not severally, from Virginia, after they had conquered it from Great Britain. The Convention reiterated their determination not to engage the State to any bounty of lands; the ten dollars in cash they were willing to offer. If Congress objected to this, they must be prepared for the consequences. The Convention repeated its declaration that "the back lands claimed by the British crown, if secured by the blood and treasure of all, ought in reason, justice and policy to be considered a common stock, to be parcelled out by Congress into free, convenient, and independent governments." From this just and reasonable position, Maryland, though she stood alone, steadily refused to recede, and declined to enter the Confederation until some equitable arrangement was made. Virginia, at last, conceded the point, and Maryland signed the articles of confederation on Mar. 1, 1781. Virginia ceded her claims to the lands northwest of the Ohio, to the United States, in 1783.