

c. c. the number of Horses and common Country Saddles and Bridles proper for the Cavalry which may be had from Virginia Maryland Pensilvania and New Jersey respectively. The State we suppose will then calculate what number the several Counties can furnish by a reasonable Assessment and then appoint proper Persons in the County to purchase them on the best Terms they can always attending to the following Description. That the Horses be sound and clean limbed not less than 5 years old this Spring nor exceeding 12 Geldings at least $14\frac{1}{2}$ Hands high and not less than quarter blooded. We do not limit any Price either as a Purchase Money or Compensation to those employed in the Business because we presume they will be men of Integrity & Property who besides the Interest they have in common with us that the publick Expences be not causelessly enhanced will have a due Regard to their own Characters. In order to provide for Payment it is proposed that a number of Loan Office Certificates be lodged with the executive Authority of the States to be paid on the 1st May under such Limitations and Checks as will most effectually guard against Fraud or Mistake. The whole Account to be finally settled between Congress and the State when the Business is compleated.

The number estimated for the State of Maryland is three hundred and fifty which we believe will not appear by any means too large for the Resources of your State which has with a laudable Care cultivated a valuable Breed of Horses for a long Time past. We doubt not but on this occasion your Excellency and the Gentlemen of the Legislature will favor us with a continuance of those Exertions the beneficial Effects of which we have already experienced.

We greatly regret that this Business has been so long delayed and fear the Service will suffer in Consequence of it as some time is necessary to train the Horses before they can be brought into the Field. We hope therefore it will receive all possible Forwardness from the Gentlemen who are to take it up as the Utility of the measure will depend greatly on Dispatch.

We are Sir
Your most obedient
and
humble Servants
Fra. Dana.
by Order

P. S. We must request that the persons who may be appointed to make the purchases, be directed from time to time to make returns of their doings in this business to yourself, and you wou'd please to order a general return to be made to the Quarter Master General, and also to the Board of War